

telling anecdote that cannot but be helpful to some one. A knowledge of the actual world as the abode of men is also very helpful, and the reading of an occasional book of travel will often serve to give a breadth and reality to our thought that can come in no other way. And from these sources one can often glean facts and stories that will be helpful, especially for the young.

But after all, the chief study of the preacher, next to the Bible and its truth, is man. This subject is so varied as to be practically endless, and we can never say that we are quite done with it. Our study of men must ever be based upon the knowledge that we gain by personal contact with them, and yet there are many useful things that we can most easily reach through books. The pages of history are full of important matter, for there we see the working out of principles whose real tendencies cannot be ascertained in the observations of even the longest life-time. And these things the preacher should know, lest in the movements he inaugurates, he make mistakes that are none the less serious because unconsciously committed. The study of Church History is especially important, and pastors may deem themselves fortunate in being able now to have the *Manual of Church History*, written by Professor Newman, a book that puts into a brief and orderly form the best results of present study in this department. A pastor will also gain greatly by the proper use of biographies of great men. But let him take care that he does not waste his time over poorly written biographies. There are so many good books of this class that there need be no fear of an inadequate supply. What we want here is a sketch that sets forth the man as he really was, a book whose outlines are as sharp and as clear, and whose figures are as life-like, as a statue or a painting of Michael Angelo. When a pastor is growing discouraged or slack or barren in his thought, the best remedy is often the reading of the biography of some godly man of marked character.

To history and biography, we perhaps ought to add sociology and economics, although these subjects are so vast that few of us can hope to advance very far in them. These