

ment." But use the subject as an instrument to get at them; make them feel that they are the subject of discourse, that you are talking about them and to them—"fishers of men," "wise to win souls," aiming to "present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."

"One secret of the power exercised by the true Evangelist is to be found here—in the direct, personal form of his address, his understanding of his hearers and sympathy with them, his earnest endeavour and expectation to achieve immediate results upon them.

"Rightly understood, 'the cure of souls' embraces not only the persuading men to be Christians—to commence the religious life, but 'building them up on their most holy faith;' the development of every grace of the Christian character, and the application to all the varied conditions of human life of the manifold teachings of God's holy word. It includes, therefore, the Pentecostal appeals whereby men are 'pricked to the heart,' and made to cry out, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' and such teaching as that of the Apostolic epistles, unfolding doctrine, controverting error, correcting disorders and laying down rules for Christian living.

"The conversion of sinners is a never-to-be-forgotten object of the Christian ministry; a large proportion of such is always present in our congregations; their danger is urgent; their indifference needs arousing; their self-delusions are many, and they must be continually plied with warning and invitation. Let them ever lie upon our hearts and engage our most fervent labours and prayers. But we must at the same time keep in mind the necessities of those who have already accepted Christ, and who need to be taught the way of God more perfectly, to have their pure minds stirred up by way of remembrance, to be sometimes admonished, sometimes comforted, sometimes encouraged.

"The Christian life is just human life lived Christianly, and the Christian preacher must needs deal with the every day affairs of Christian people, with home, school, farm, shop, warehouse, office, ship, forum and Senate—with the labours, the sorrows and the pleasures of mankind from the cradle to the grave. There is no soul of man to whom he has not a message; there is no stage or state of life with which his Master has not charged him to deal. At times, it may be needful for him, as one 'set for the defence of the Gospel,' like the Apostles of old, to 'contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the Saints,' to take it up and expose the errors current at the time, lest unwary souls be deceived to their undoing. In all this multiform work, however, with saint or sinner, the one dominant aim is ever to be the souls of men, their souls for Christ! The doctrines of our creeds are to be set forth and maintained for their sakes; the church and the ministry exist for them; Christ died and the Holy Ghost was given for their salvation. Men—let the servant of the Lord keep them ever in his eye, and devote all his powers to their service. Let every word he speaks have their profiting as its end.

"It is time, however, that we turn our attention to that more private and personal 'cure of souls,' which, probably, the words most naturally suggest to those who hear them. It is not for us to estimate the comparative value of the public and the personal ministry of the Gospel. Both are of the highest importance; both are enjoined by Scripture example and precept; both are sealed with the Divine blessing in the fruit they bear. Each would be miserably incomplete without the other; a preacher who is no pastor, or a pastor who is no preacher, deplorably failing in making full proof of his ministry. While the two functions, so to speak, play into each other's hands with admirable effect. Intercourse with his hearers throughout the week supplies the preacher with a rich variety of themes for pulpit discourse on the Lord's Day, enables him to treat them in a manner adapted to their needs, and predisposes the people in favour of what he says.

And on the other hand, his public addresses bring within the range of his personal influence, families and individuals to whom otherwise he would have no ac-