

cuse. Encourage all to speak, if they have a thought which they would utter, or offer a few words of prayer, if the Spirit prompts, rising or remaining seated, as they choose. Sometimes ask questions; *always encourage questions*. Look for a large meeting. Let the church and world see you prizing these social religious gatherings. Soon others will begin to prize what you hold in high regard. Men and women will be attracted, the unchristian will be as Christian. Inquirers will come. Souls will be saved, and God glorified.

Brethren, gather up the forces. There is a vast amount of undeveloped talent in each of our churches. Call it forth; *bring it forth*. There is growth in action, not in idleness. Many a man waits for encouragement and guidance.

DR. JOSEPH PARKER'S THURSDAY NOON SERMON.

BY REV. CHARLES PARKHURST.

THIS is a historic event in London. On the 14th day of July last this week-day service reached its eighteenth anniversary. Such a method of religious work called for great faith and courage in its inception, for London is painfully conservative. "We have always done so," is the stereotyped explanation for all English customs and practises. It was my privilege to hear him on this occasion. Though it was exceedingly heated for London, and vacation season, yet a large congregation was present to hear him, including many clergymen, several from America, a large element of business men and a generous proportion of women.

Dr. Parker is in the prime of a most vigorous manhood. He has the look of perfect health. This fact will be of interest to the large number of American friends who ask anxiously "if he will probably live to complete his great work, 'The People's Bible?'" Voluminous as this work is to be, he seemed to me, as I listened to him, to have many such great liter-

ary enterprises in him. He is so wonderfully fertile. Great thoughts flash out to surprise and charm you, and yet you feel there is an immense reserve power. Having once seen him you will never forget him. It is a most striking face and head, Roman, shall I call it? I have likened him to Wendell Phillips, but it is a more expressive face. It is the typical face of a judge on a bench. In Dr. Parker a most able lawyer was spoiled in making a most remarkable clergyman. With face closely shaven, with hair brushed back, just thinning a little on the top of the head, clothed in surplice, he stood in his own pulpit on that day to speak to a most expectant congregation. God gave him all the native qualities of an orator. He has but to use them well, and he knows how to do it. He is a genius. I have heard many clergymen on both sides of the Atlantic, but there is none with whom I can compare him. He reminds me, in his methods and manners, of Mr. Beecher, and, as you listen to him, you are impressed with the fact that Mr. Beecher was his ideal and model. Genius, however, cannot imitate. He must be himself, unique, individual.

He is an actor, and might have been the rival of Irving, and yet, best of all, his acting is all unconscious. I never saw in the pulpit, except in Mr. Beecher, such power of facial expression, and such sweep of intonation. In gesture he is a master, and yet never artificial or overwrought. His sweep of scornful utterance and explosive climax, is terrible. If he should give free rein to this, it would be repulsive in the pulpit. He impresses you most by his suggestiveness. While you wait for him to develop one line of thought, there flash out a volume more. In rhetoric he is classic, never lacking the fit and best word. He collocates sentences with absolutely perfect English, and it seems to you as if they must have been specially chosen and finished in