

## Christianity in the New Age

privilege is to preach as a *pastor*; that is, straight out of his intimate and sympathetic knowledge of his own people. The modern tendency is for preachers to address themselves either to a section of their congregation—that section which responds to their message and invites their personal friendship—or to that mythical monster called “the modern mind.” Theoretically speaking, their interests and sympathies range over a far wider sphere than those of their predecessors; in reality, their scope is often far narrower than that of many an old-time parish minister who lived among his people and knew them intimately and lovingly. Men of that time had a grip and a “bite” in the pulpit, a mellowness of sympathy and a shrewdness of judgment, which present-day preaching largely lacks. Nothing, indeed, is more characteristic of the modern ministry than its poor skill in the cure of souls—an art which neither pastoral visitation nor private consultation, neither the Bible Class nor the Confessional, can teach, but which is the secret of those who really live with souls, sharing their joys and bearing their sorrows. It is for want of such long and patient living alongside of their people that preachers of to-day are lacking in genuine insight into concrete moral and spiritual difficulties.

Our increasing anxiety to draw “outsiders” into the Church has made the preacher’s position doubly difficult. It is so easy for preachers of