

Whatever his personal leanings regarding public questions, the preacher must, at all times, put Christian patriotism before political partisanship, and so prove that while vocationally he preaches Christian brotherhood, his practice, in public and private life, furthers that brotherhood of man which is inseparably linked with belief in the Fatherhood of God.

#### Only One Sermon a Week?

Though to some good church people it may partake of the nature of heresy to suggest change in the number of sermons, the continued multiplicity of the minister's duties and his congregational responsibilities to families and individuals, the numerous organizations with which he must keep in touch in his own congregation and denomination and in the social and patriotic life of his community, tend to make the preparation of sermons such a tax on his time and strength that it is likely to become next to impossible for any man to prepare three, or even two, fresh addresses each week. There may be a revolution or evolution in the arrangements of the churches which will result in the minister not being expected to prepare more than one sermon weekly.

That suggestion does not imply that the minister will do less work; but, rather, that more of his time and attention will be given to other duties, including congregational visitation and personal service that may influence the homes and lives of his people more than under the present conditions, which, in most city charges, exact from the minister the preparation of two sermons and a mid-week address each week.

#### Human Nature the Same: "Sin"

Recognizing that, notwithstanding the progress of the world's life, with all its labour-saving inventions and scientific achievements, human nature is much the same, and still retains in itself capacity for a mysterious kinship with "nature red in tooth and claw," whether or not men call it "sin," and that, however men accept or explain it, ere any earthly life "gain its Heavenly best a God must mingle with the game," the churchman will find lasting inspiration in the settled conviction that he is working not only in harmony with the highest laws of the universe, but in tune with the Infinite, whose beneficent Spirit broods over the restless, longing and yearning hearts of men, and, through the agency of consecrated fellow-mortals, leads such souls to "rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him."

#### God's Kindergarten School

For even when human life is rightly directed, and the summit of its ambitions seems reached in home or church or society, and in community or public service, the Christian minister rather more than other teachers and directors of thought must again and again remind his fellows not to become too much attached to the things of time and sense, and must emphasize that "here we have no continuing city"; that while it is the duty of the human family to work and strive strenuously for the establishment of an "earthly paradise," this life, at best is but God's kindergarten school for the souls of men.

Thus shall the minister, through devotion to his divinely-appointed task "allure to brighter worlds and lead the way."

#### Avoiding Self-Advertising and Vaudeville Texts

The twentieth century preacher who is well-trained and well-advised, will avoid cheapening himself and his work by courting that newspaper and other publicity that comes from taking sensational subjects, such as picture show and political arena topics, for his "sermons." He will remember that, in a nominally "Christian" country even preaching work may be secondary in its lasting results to those which follow from the exercise of that quiet, persistent influence which radiates from forceful and congenial personalities and gradually permeates lives and homes.

#### Dominant Notes: "Whither?"

This is an age in which accelerated social progress is inevitable, and as human life becomes more healthful and refined in its general conditions, and the means and interchange of knowledge embraces investigation and conquest of earth and sea and air, the thought of the race will naturally rise more readily towards the age-old questions "Whence?" "Wherefore?" "Whither?" with increased emphasis on the "Whither?"

#### "Respectable" Christians: Attitude to Missions

This will result in several features of Christianity being emphasized and certain dominant notes being struck, perhaps as never before. For instance, merely "respectable" or formal Christians will come to be looked at askance in the Christian church at home, just as "rice Christians" are belittled in certain foreign lands. Also the absurd anomaly of people professing themselves Christians, and even holding office in the churches, and yet questioning the work or wisdom of the church devoting men and money to "Missions," will be criticized freely and condemned fearlessly. For to speak of a "Christian" who does not believe in foreign missions, is a contradiction in terms; as such a view involves an unchristian spirit of selfishness which says, in effect, "I have the best light and teaching for this world and for life beyond, but I do not believe in passing them to fellow mortals."

#### The Gospel of the Resurrection

One of the dominant notes of the new era will almost certainly be the sounding of the Gospel of the Resurrection. As people advance in years they may less readily be thought of as growing old, and more pertinently as growing up in life, ripening for a higher standard and a senior class of service, in which personality shall persist and "eternal form shall still divide the eternal soul from all beside."

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