

occupying the pulpits of our land. If a man is endowed with the gift of eloquence, if he is able to speak with enticing words, let him by all means enlist his talent in the service of Christ. The more eloquent he is, the better for him and for the churches. Only let him not calculate upon it as the chief element in the salvation of sinners. If a man is able to produce beautiful roses and delight his congregation with them Sunday after Sunday, by all means let him produce them; only let him take care to make his roses as God makes His—never a rose without a thorn, to prick the conscience of the hearer, and to spur him onward in the Divine life. Let the sermon please, if possible; but, like Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, it ought to prick the consciences of men. Let it be beautiful, if possible; but let it first be useful. In making rocks God's principal object was solidity; but, as most of you know, He has etched the hard stones with lines of beauty and mystic figures of every description. Usefulness first, beauty afterwards. If a man is blessed with a powerful intellect and a vivid imagination, let him by all means preach sermons which radiate with light and sparkle with ideas. Only a week or two ago, many of us were reading in a popular serial an address delivered by a great trans-Atlantic preacher to students, in which he warned them against preaching great sermons. I could not help whispering to myself in reading it—"Better warn them against preaching small sermons. We are not in danger of greatness overmuch in England. It is not the great, but