

be brought, yet, in another sense, it is only a sample of the kind of materials that are to be gathered from the world of objects, facts and minds, and of the use to which these are to be put. It directs us to observe and study what the heavens exhibit, what the earth presents and yields, what providence evolves, and what the ever active intelligence of mind discloses. Religion is the relation of things to God, therefore, all things become religion to the Christian, and all things should be laid hold of by the Christian minister, and laid under tribute to the promotion of the glory of God, and the happiness of the creatures whom He hath made after His own image. An English divine was one Saturday found studying Gibbon, and on being questioned on the subject he said, "If I belong to Christ, Gibbon is surely mine, and a harvest field which bears fruit for my Master." Only it must ever be borne in mind that the pastor's work is to feed the flock, and therefore what he presents must be food.

In connection with this work of imparting instruction, a number of points, respecting the manner of performing it would naturally come up for discussion, such as the form of address in which instruction may be most efficiently presented,—whether the homily, essay, sermon or lecture is the preferable form of discourse, or to what extent each may be practiced in public preaching; the work of preparing the instruction—on which point Tholuck, in substance remarks that, "the instruction must be drawn from the Scriptures, must have adaptation to the circumstances of the flock, and must be first created in the study and then re-created in the pulpit, under the guidance of the Holy Ghost; and the various ways by which the minister may seek to convey instruction besides the public preaching on the Sabbath—as through family visitation, week-day lectures, district prayer meetings, seasons of catechizing, Bible classes and Sabbath schools, and occasionally publishing a discourse or address. But time will not admit of our considering these particulars.

2. *Exercising Government* is the other department of the work of the ministry implied in the text, "Taking the