

Again, Sabbath-schools have been among God's greatest instruments for bringing into activity that species of priestly sacrifice spoken of by the apostles. "But to do good and to communicate, forget not, for with such sacrifice God is well pleased." These have made the ministry less of a dignified profession, but have invested it with more power.

From the pulpit, too, once a *sacred* desk filled only by those who had been publicly set apart for their important office, sounds the gospel from the lips of the lay brother.* "The ministry, itself, as a sphere of service, has greatly broadened, and thus affords scope for varieties of capacity and culture, for which there was no room under the notion that no service is ministerial save that of preaching from the pulpit, with text and regular divisions, firstly and fifthly, and an *amen* at the end. The privilege of this service is no longer limited to the pastor of the Church."

The God begotten thirst for the living streams of the Word.

The Word of God has never, perhaps, since the times of Christ, His apostles and their immediate followers, been so universally regarded as the only rule of practice for the church of Christ, as at the present time. "It is written" is becoming the motto of thousands of Christians who before looked with indifference upon the word of Jehovah, in many cases, perhaps, because the only door into the treasure-house, "Jesus only," had not been thrown open to them. It has been suggested that the ministers of our day have grown careless, or are too much inclined to preach Jesus, the sum and substance of the gospel, as an abstract truth. Many indeed have been enlightened or at least awakened to the truth that Christ must be held up as a living personal Redeemer. Bunyan's characters receive their force and grandeur from the fact of shadowing forth living truths. So the truth as it is in Jesus is living. Christ is a personal Saviour who says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Hence, when the soul receives the gospel, it receives not an abstract truth, but a Christ, and hence life. "He that hath the Son hath life."

*From J. A. Smith's "Patmos."