

not because of His miracles. He put little stress on them. He rebuked those people who sought for evidence in this direction. He said, it is a wicked and adulterous generation that seeketh after a sign, that is, physical evidence. We believe Christ, because the truths He uttered are divine truths. The utterances that come from séance rooms are unworthy of their professed source."

—"You wouldn't believe though an angel spake—"

"If an angel spake we should expect to hear angelic truths. If instead we heard nonsense, we should doubt the evidence of our eyes if our eyes reported that it was an angel speaking, and doubt wisely."

Preaching Past and Present.

CHARLES H. HALL, the eminent rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Brooklyn, writes us the following bit of interesting reminiscence, which doubtless will have its echo in the memories of many of the more aged among the clergy:

"When I began preaching we were compelled to study only the ponderous sermons of Barrow, South, Robert Hall, and other giants of the olden times, who wrote at leisure exhaustive essays, not without numerous learned quotations, and called them sermons. Our little efforts seemed the squeaks of pigmies, and I recall with pleasure the effect of certain small volumes by Hooker

of actual discourses by living men. Suddenly it occurred to me that

Tempora mutantur et nos,
and that something less, something shorter, was wanted."

Sept. 28, 1883. CHARLES H. HALL.

The Swiss Pulpit.

We quote the following from a letter just to hand from the eminent commentator whose name is appended:

"The Swiss pulpit is not a unity, but a plurality of twenty-two cantons with a great number of churches. There is no little variety in pulpit preparation and in pulpit delivery. Not many of the sermons delivered in Switzerland are published. The publication of sermons is not so common here as in some other countries."

F. GODET.

Neuchâtel, Switzerland, Sept. 20, 1883.

An Admirable Hint Touching Funeral Sermons.

We clip the following from a letter lying open on our table, written by one of the most successful pastors in America:

"In reference to funeral sermons let me say, that I *never wrote* a funeral address and never expect to. The more off-hand, tender, simple, and adapted to the peculiar circumstances of the individual case they are, the better.

THEODORE L. CUTLER.

Sept. 2, 1883.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS.

"K. T."—A.: We easily may go too far in our admiration of *form*; substance is of infinitely greater value.

"A. R. S."—A.: Avoid blind imitation as you would a plague; that way does not lead to a high level. Nature unfolds variations, and these are complements of one another.

"S. L. A."—What books would be the best helps in preparing a series of biographical sermons on Biblical characters?—A.: Schaff-Herzog's great encyclopædia, Dr. W. M. Taylor's "Elijah, the Prophet," and "David, King of Israel"; and Dr. Van Dyke's "Through

the Prison to the Throne," and "From Gloom to Gladness," would afford you valuable aid.

"H. T. B."—What work would you suggest as affording the greatest aid in the preparation of a course of expository lectures on the Epistle to the Romans?—A.: "Godet on Romans" is an invaluable commentary for this purpose. And Meyer's great work, which we shall bring out early next year, is said by eminent scholars and divines to be unrivaled. Meyer is pronounced "the prince of exegetes." "Robbin's Commentary," published by Draper, of

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