

instead of being teachers, should be sent to a reforming school, where they themselves might be taught reverence and godly fear. If they ever realize that they are in the presence of God, and have most responsible duties to perform, they are most unfortunate in making their "profiting appear unto all men."

Paul's preface to his charge to one of the primitive preachers was "I charge, thee, therefore, before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and kingdom." The solemn charge itself was, first, "Preach the word;" second, "Be instant in season, out of season"; third "Reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and doctrine." And another preacher was reminded by the apostle that he was to "speak the things which become sound doctrine," a part of which teaching consisted in making even aged men "sober, grave and temperate," and young men "sober-minded." It would be a singular lesson that certain young, pert, spruce, play-actor like preachers, in the year of grace 1852, would teach upon sobriety and gravity. They forget the injunction to preacher Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God."—What words these are! "Approved unto God." How many show themselves approved unto men, especially if the men have "itching ears" and relish a witty anecdote—how many, we say, are approved in the sight of men who are not approved unto God. Well might Paul exclaim, in closing one of his letters to his son in the faith and one of the Lord's workmen. "O, Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust" The things committed to his trust as a preacher and herald of Christ were the great and grave things of eternity.

A band of preachers who constantly cherish a living sense of the divine presence—who frequently enter in spirit into the Holiest of Holies—who look narrowly and carefully into heaven's looking-glass, are just the preachers and pleaders called for in times when a reformation is demanded. Their chief attention will not be a fine collar, a well-brushed coat, a smooth chin, a remarkable cane, or a swelling string of flowery words. They will rather carry with them the ornaments and attractions of the gospel, and the spiritual beauties and fashions of the Lord's religion. The odor of life is in all that they think, say, or do. Their powers, plans, and aims are consecrated to the Lord, and they lead, men to Jesus and to heaven. A score of such men must revolutionize any country in which God casts their lot.

And here we are led very naturally to offer a reflection or two upon the general character, bearing, and influence of preachers among all