

From Drumtochty to Chicago is a "factory." From Ian Maclaren to Charles M. Sheldon the step is equally great. Differing in nationality, education and surroundings, the two men have little in common save a strong sympathy with humanity in general. But while Maclaren has studied humanity in the quiet of a Scottish country parish, Sheldon has seen it in the heterogeneous elements comprised in one of the great American cities. Maclaren pictures an Arcadia with social conditions at their best and he is content to have them so. Sheldon sees social conditions at their worst and wishes to do something to improve or relieve them. Under such circumstances we need not expect him to spend much time discussing theories, whether Theological or otherwise, but since many of his prominent characters are ministers, and he gives a sketch of his sermons, we have an opportunity for learning something of his doctrines. At least we may see how he regards doctrines in relation to the difficulties by which he is confronted. On looking over these sermons we find absolutely nothing of doctrine as that term would have been understood by the old school. His ideal preacher is John King and he sketches several of his sermons. On one occasion he preaches from the text "What Think Ye of the Christ?" With such a text it would surely be a clever man who could avoid saying something about the person or work of Christ, but King is equal to the occasion. His sermon consists of appeals to his hearers to submit themselves to this Christ, but who he is or why they should submit to him are questions which are never touched. Again preaching from the text "He That Hath the Son Hath the Life," he says he is going to study this Son of God. Perhaps he did, but if so he succeeds admirably in not crowding his sermon with the result of his study. It is true that the circumstances of the preacher are such as do not call for elaborate theories; he is face to face with a practical difficulty for which he sees only one solution. His sermons, then, very properly consist largely of appeals to those present to do what ought to be done. But as these appeals are made on Christian principles they would surely have gained rather than lost in power, by some statement of what those principles are. To quote the words of one of the cleverest thinkers and ablest preachers of our day him-