

Perhaps they did ; still there is something in addition to all this in the manner of presenting the truth that acts upon men.

They have a magnetism about them, says a fifth, that others have not. True, they have ; but with some, at least, a large part of this was acquired by patient effort, study and practice. Charles Francis Adams, in speaking of this matter, says :—

“I have reason to believe that the study of the arts, which make an impressive and zealous orator, have by some excellent people been regarded as utterly inconsistent with the character of a grave and pious preacher of the Gospel. It is the doctrine which is essential. The manner of communication may be as it pleases God. The consequence of this sort of reasoning has been the production of many very worthy men as teachers, who never studied at all the modes of attracting the attention of their hearers. What is the result ? One church crowded to its utmost limits, while another, occupied by a far better man, attended possibly by forty or fifty devoted friends, and no more.”

These words must be taken in a limited sense. Numbers are not always the signs of true success ; and the great mass of men will follow the system in which they have been educated.

Yet the proposition I have to make holds good, that men of ability and earnestness can acquire a style that will rivet attention to a certain degree. He is an excellent minister, says some one, of a herald of the Gospel, but *he is not adapted for us*. Why not ? Oh ! says this one, his delivery would suit the church in Athens, where everybody is educated, or the church in Naples, where everybody is uneducated—but he does not suit this peculiar field. Brethren, almost every field is peculiar ; and every field and every church is made up of individuals.

Truly, there is a style which suits some localities—there is a style which suits other localities—but there is a style which suits almost every locality and every condition of men.

Congregational ministers desire success—pray for success—work for success—and none are more ready to make sacrifices for the principles they maintain to be scriptural. To have a full measure of success, however, the people must hear the preacher ; to have hearers, a style calculated to rivet their attention must be cultivated.

The writer believes that the ministry in the Congregational body are second to none in the Dominion, compared with their numbers ; but there are some of them who will be able to accomplish more for the Master, if they only seek the best mode of delivering the message as earnestly as they strive to study the message they have to deliver to their fellow-men.

It may be that some one who feels his inability to hold the attention of his audience, even when he has devoted considerable time to the preparation of his sermon, will ask, how is this to be obtained ? To such a one I would say, throw your dignity to the winds if necessary, in order to obtain the style that suits every community, and every condition and position of your fellow-creatures who can be drawn into the house of God. While upon your knees, as you often are, agonizing in prayer, ask God to help you to this gift, which is one of the gifts for which men are crying out at the present day. And having done this, take with you a humble, earnest brother, anxious for the souls of his neighbours and friends, and going with him into a church or barn, get him to point out your defects, and explain to you the way in which the greatest number can be interested. The man you need to consult is not the man who desires to be pleased himself, but a man desirous of reaching other men for the conversion of their souls.

There are teachers to be found whom it might be necessary to pay. A few dollars spent in that way will return tenfold ; yea, will relieve you of many days and nights of anxiety.

If the words of the writer are worthy of consideration, weigh them well—study how to present, as well as what to present. If the words are uncalled for, let them pass as the words of one who wishes the ministry God-speed. The writer has no