

"We must abolish marriage," said the second.

"We must abolish God," said the third.

"I wish we could abolish work," said the fourth.

"Do not let us get beyond practical politics," said the first. "The first thing is to reduce men to a common level."

"The first thing," said the second, "is to give freedom to the sexes."

"The first thing," said the third, "is to find out how to do it."

"The first step," said the first, "is to abolish the Bible."

"The first thing," said the second, "is to abolish the laws."

"The first thing," said the third, "is to abolish mankind."

How easy it would be!

### Eighteen to One!

The following from one of our exchanges gives some slight conception of what the Protestant churches regard as extraordinary Christian giving:

"Protestant churches give annually to foreign missions \$11,290,000. Dion Bouicault says: 'The amount paid for theatrical entertainments is two hundred million dollars.' Eighteen dollars given annually to maintain the theater, whose influence is corrupting, which the country could dispense with to its moral advantage, for each dollar contributed to send the Gospel to the heathen."

### The Dead-Line in the Ministry.

Dr. Behrends, of Brooklyn, says:

"The dead-line in the ministry, as in any other calling, is the line of laziness. The lawyer can not use last year's briefs; the physician can not depend on last week's diagnosis; the merchant can not assume that a customer of ten years' standing will not be enticed elsewhere. And the preacher must be a live, wide-awake, growing man. Let him dye his brains, not his hair. Let his thoughts be fresh and his speech be glowing. Sermons, it has been well said, are like bread, which is delicious when it is fresh but which, when a month old, is hard to cut, hard to eat, and hardest of all to digest."

### Caricature of Preaching.

Dr. Joseph Parker, of London, thus caricatures much modern preaching, so-called:

"My text this morning, dear friends, will be found in the Epistles of Lord Beaconsfield, No. 10, line 7th, in these most beautiful words: 'How are you all to-day?' This pathetic inquiry, which can not be even read without profound emotion, brings before our minds, dear brethren, truths of transcendent import, yet truths which mingle easily and tenderly with the sanctities of domestic experience. My brethren, let us for a few moments dwell upon those precious truths, and endeavor to set them in profitable order.

"First: See how humanity is united by the exercise of the spirit of solicitude. The illustrious author of this pungently affectionate inquiry can not rest (tho rest is so characteristic of his life and so dear to his soul) until he knows exactly how his friends are. This is the spirit of solicitude. This is the spirit that can not be content with its own lucubrations, but must go out in earnest quest concerning the welfare of others. (Here cite an anecdote, or make one.)

"Second: See, dear brethren, from this inquiry, how large minds originate large interrogations. The immortal statesman does not ask, How is one of you? How is the senior? How is the junior? but with characteristic and splendid magnanimity he asks, in one bold and thrilling inquiry, 'How are you all?'

"Third: Observe how possible it is to be at once comprehensive and precise. The statesman whose genius has dazzled the senates of the universe, asks, 'How are you all to-day?' Mark the point of time. Mark the definiteness of the greatest minds. The writer is not content with asking, How were you all yesterday? or, How have you been during the last seven years? but with that definiteness which is characteristic of earnestness he asks, How are you all to-day, this day, this very day, and no other day? thus drawing down the mind to a precise point of attention and interest.

"Application: Take care of yourselves, because at any moment an inquiry may come from the very highest circles directing itself to your immediate condition; therefore be ready—be always ready—be all ready."

### NOTICES OF BOOKS OF HOMILETIC VALUE.

HISTORY, PROPHECY, AND THE MONUMENTS; OR, ISRAEL AND THE NATIONS. By James Frederick McCurdy, Ph.D., LL.D., Professor of Oriental Languages in University College, Toronto. Volume II.—To the Fall of Nineveh. New York: The Macmillan Com-

pany; London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd., 1896. Price, \$3.

The author's undertaking is easily a great one, to be completed in three large octavo volumes. He has set for himself the stu-