

meeting of the preceding evening which I did not attend. I am puzzled and amazed at reading of wild enthusiasm and storms of applause, the reason for which is not apparent to my calm perusal. By and by I come to a passage which is, in my judgment, remarkably good, and I ask a friend to listen while I read it. But my friend was at the meeting. He says, "Yes, that is very fine, in whose speech is it? Let me see,—it is in Dr. A's is it not? Dear me his address last night was exceedingly flat from beginning to end."

These facts of existence must be accounted for, and they are of special significance to theological students and young preachers who have all the world of failure or of success before them in their untried and uncertain future.

We dare not say it is chance. The Christian does not recognize chance. It is scarcely safe to say "It is the will of God" however comfortable and proper a state of mind that may indicate in the *post facto*. But must not somebody occupy the obscure place? Yes, but it is sometimes true that the obscurity of a place is caused by the man who fills it, and our church glories in the possession of ability in obscure places, of men who have made obscure places well known, and who have won a halo for their homes.

If the subject matter does not explain the differences in appreciation and in success, the manner must and does explain much. The art and the method commends or condemns the matter. Then let us acquire the right art and method. As the world goes it is better to be able to walk four miles an hour gracefully than to get over five miles with slouching ungainly gait. The geniuses and the weaklings in the ministry are exceedingly rare. We are, for the most part men of average talent and good education, and the question is how to make the most and best of what we have. Need it be said that the spirituality of the preacher is the prime factor. His must be the fervour and the agonising and the holy joy of the man who has got something from the Spirit that is all his own, and which he longs to communicate to his people. This, and nothing short of this is the preaching of the Word. Surely it is well to give this message sweetly, clearly and forcibly. Dare a man neglect any honest aid on this ambassadorship for Christ. Our Lord spake as never man spake, and