

but in order to touch and carry with one the heart of the human hearer in appeal in public to the Divine, the voice must ring true, and reveal that the heart, not less than the intellect, is seeking to be in tune with the Infinite. Paternal in years and experience compared with many in the congregation, Dr. Wright, in his pulpit prayers, brings before us the ideal in exercise,—himself the child speaking to the Eternal Father.

The "message" of the subject of our sketch is no "new theology," but still less is it one that takes no cognisance of the trend of the times. As is always true where there is any character worth speaking of, Dr. Wright's message is coloured by its passing through the crucible of his own strong personality; and it is one of evangelical fervour, becomingly jeweled with literary and poetic beauties that emphasise and strengthen, but never quite overshadow the purpose and the point of all his preaching,—to reveal the Christ of the Gospels and His Message and Mission to men. It may be true, as some have hinted, that the reverend doctor is apt to turn his thoughts rather more to the Beyond than seems fitting to those on the ascending side of life's pathway; but some allowance should be made for one who is, in more than a metaphorical sense, on the verge of "Beulah's land."

After all, too, it is a fair question whether, in christian concerns, we should not give more thought to that very theme; for, if we have any belief in the Christian Faith at all, this life is only important in so far as it fits us for the fuller life of higher love and more helpful service beyond this transient testing time, and in closer contact with the Alone-Enduring. Here is a sentence culled almost at random, by the writer, from shorthand notes of a recent appeal from the pulpit by Dr. Wright. In recommending a more earnest study of the Bible, he made clear that he would not discourage a study of other books of worth; then he said:—

"Oh, I very well believe that if thousands of men and women who are spending their time reading trashy stuff would just take for their study, Moses, Isaiah and Paul and James and Peter and the rest, they would soon grow stronger in mind—have far stronger mental faculties, not to speak of the spiritual improvement that is sure to result."

Though now the aged pastor, as he himself so readily recognises, is within hearing distance of the Call to "cross the river,"