

ception being when some question which has a direct bearing upon the Kingdom of Christ, is debated in the political arena. Then a minister may fairly enough speak. These occasions, however, are few. From ordinary political contests a minister should carefully keep aloof. They are apt to unspiritualize a minister, to embitter his relations with his flock, to degrade the tone of his ministrations, and to destroy his power. Lightness and foolishness are also to be avoided. There is no necessity for long-faced pharisaical gloom, and a humorous remark may sometimes lighten up a grave subject. But a minister should beware of being considered the best joker in the parish, and a jolly good fellow. These may not prevent you from keeping your congregation, but they will undoubtedly ruin your usefulness.

Sameness and monotony are to be avoided. Some men's voices, or their tones, rather, are as if a choir should sing through a lengthened piece all on one note. Some men preach with as little emphasis, dealing all the while with the most terrible realities, as if they were talking to a farmer about the difference between cultivating potatoes and turnips.

PRAVER.

Preaching, however, is not the whole of your public service. The offering of prayer *with* the people, *for* the people, leading the thoughts of the people, their souls in devotion,—this is so important a part of the minister's work that he who cannot do it well, will only be half successful.

Here we have the inestimable advantage of a Liturgy that is universally acknowledged to be more conducive to edification than any that exists. But the power to use it to edification is not so common as may be supposed.

I have heard our liturgy so rendered as to make boys laugh—or so rendered that it was impossible to tell whether it was in English or Latin, or so rendered as to convey no meaning to the mind at all.

The art of using our liturgy in all its parts, the reading of Scripture included, so that the confession shall be lowly, the prayer earnest and devout, the praise uplifting, the absolution solemn, the creed strengthening, the Litany heart-searching—is one that every student should carefully cultivate.

And the best cultivation is by putting his very heart into it.