

with the eloquence that is born of a rich poetic imagination. In Church there is the wealth of a scholar and the reverence of a chastened spirit, enlisted in the service of a keenly intense religious personality. In Newman we seem to hear the far-off tones of other worlds, as the preacher himself listens to them, and makes us stop to listen too.

This may be an appropriate place to point out that there are three spheres of knowledge with which the preacher should be more or less familiar. He should know about the nature and character and purposes and work of God, for his duty is to preach a true God; he should know about the dispositions and doings and possibilities of men, for it is his duty to preach to men; and he should know about the world, in its structure and its capacity, for this world is the house both of himself and those to whom he preaches, and hence the objects with which he and they are surrounded must be made channels for the communication of that spiritual truth that it is his duty to set forth. To bear in mind these three classes of knowledge will be a great help in guiding a pastor in his reading.

In regard to this world which is the house in which we live and think, it is quite obvious that there are vast areas of knowledge about which the working pastor must be content to remain in ignorance. And yet he will make a serious mistake if he allows the great book of nature to remain for him a sealed book. This did not our Master, for He knew about the flowers and the grass and the sunsets, and He used them to teach spiritual lessons. To be sure He did not speak in the language of modern science, because His hearers would not have understood Him; but He spoke to the men of His own age in such a way as to make us believe that if He had lived to-day he would have entered into the spirit of those who have made nature their study. While few of us can be intimately acquainted with the natural sciences, there are none of us who can afford to be without the freshness and vigour that a little knowledge of these things will give to our own thinking, and to the sermons that we preach. Not that we should attempt to teach science or that we should use its technical phrases; but familiarity with these things will often furnish an apt illustration or a