

preaching! As no good could have come of discussing such a subject, I merely remarked that, in my opinion, it could easily be done if a minister set himself to do it.

It, however, let me into the secret why some men preach so very unprofitably; they do it without prayer. And can they have a proper idea of what it is to preach Christ, if they can do it in a prayerless frame of mind? How could any holy servant of the Lord attempt to go on with the solemn work of preaching Christ Jesus without looking up for the promised Spirit, to give him strength to speak with unction, and to accompany his preaching with vital power? And this leaning attitude is itself *continuous prayer*. But there is no difficulty in lifting up the soul in *conscious and conceived prayer* as a man is addressing an audience, provided he is "in the Spirit;" and those who are ignorant of this Divine art need not wonder if their preaching is devoid of power to convert sinners, or to edify the Church of God. It can be done in other employments, and why not in that calling in which it is so essential to success?

An old author, Hales of Eton, has a few sentences to our purpose, which may be read with profit: "Let no man think it too much," says he, "to require at the hands of men, at one and the selfsame instant, both to attend their *vocation* and their *prayer*. For the mind of man is very agile and nimble, and it is wonderful to see to how many things it will, at one moment apply itself, without any confusion.

"Look but upon the musician; while he is in his practice, he tunes his voice, fingers his instrument, reads his music, makes the note, observes the time—all these things at one and the same instant, without any distraction or impediment. Thus should men do in case of devotion, and in the common acts of our vocation let prayer bear a part."

Dear reader, let us keep up a prayerful state of mind by keeping up a constant "inward recollection" of God; let us have our "eyes ever toward the Lord;" let us "walk in the Spirit and live in the Spirit," and wherever we are, and in whatever engaged, we shall thereby be enabled to obey the sweet command of our gracious Lord, and "PRAY WITHOUT CEASING."—[*British Herald*,

THE IMPERFECT COPY.

BY "A. L. O. E."

"Always busy at your drawing, Edwin?" said his elder brother Henry, as he entered the schoolroom one morning.

Edwin looked up for a moment with a smile, and then went on tracing with evident pleasure the outline of a face. His brother came behind him, and looked over his shoulder. Edwin listened for his remarks, though without ceasing to draw.

"You are taking pains, I see," said Henry at last, in a kindly tone; "but I am afraid that you have to use your india-rubber here, and here: these lines, you may perceive, are not in good drawing."

"I don't see much wrong in them," replied Edwin, suspending his pencil, with something of vexation in his tone, for he had expected nothing but praise.

"If you compare them with your study, you will perceive that all this outline is incorrect."

"Where is the study?" continued Henry, looking in vain for it on the table.

"Oh, it's somewhere upstairs," said Edwin. "I remember very well what it is like, and can go on without looking at it every minute."

"Would you oblige me by bringing it?" said his brother, who perceived that as long as Edwin merely drew from memory, he would not see the faults in his sketch.

Edwin went upstairs rather unwillingly, and soon brought down a beautiful study, a face most perfect in form and expression.

Henry silently put the two pictures together. Edwin gazed with bitter disappointment on his own copy, which but a few minutes before he had thought so good. Not a feature was really like; the whole looked crooked and cramp; even his partial eye could not but see a thousand faults in his sketch.

"I shall never get it right!" Edwin exclaimed, in a burst of vexation; and snatching up the unfortunate drawing, he would have torn it asunder, had he not been prevented by his brother.

"My dear Edwin, you have doubly erred; first in being too easily satisfied, and then in being too easily discouraged."

"I shall never make it like that beautiful face!" cried the disheartened boy.