

for the general purposes of this interesting and promising Home Mission will be speedily forthcoming.

THE ministry of Christian men is doubtless God's principal and most honored agency in making known the way of salvation to our lost and ruined world. Preachers of righteousness have been employed in every age of the church. But it is especially since the manifestation of the Gospel with its brighter light, clearer revelation and world-embracing influence, that the ministry has assumed its highest importance. To be "an ambassador for Christ," "a servant of God," "a steward of heavenly mysteries," is certainly no mean honor, and involves the discharge of special, arduous and most responsible duties, which men should not heedlessly assume, and to which they should not presumptuously aspire. The office is such that it demands men of ability. As has been well remarked, "A man may have a desire after the Christian ministry, and yet having no competent ability for the work, he is certainly not called of God to be employed in it." Many have an ardent sincere piety, who have not sufficient gifts of teaching. To investigate the grand themes of the Scriptures, to exhibit the plan of salvation with clearness, freshness and vigor, to act efficiently at the bedside of the sick and dying, and to furnish spiritual nutriment to an intelligent congregation of believers twice every Sabbath during a succession of years, requires the possession of considerable intellectual power. Mere

training in a college or a seminary of theology is not sufficient. In this period of mental activity, when books abound, are read and digested; when interesting questions of politics, science, literature, and even theology are fully understood and earnestly canvassed by those who do not wear the ministerial cloth; when the standard of intelligence is every year becoming higher, and when the masses have free access to large libraries, and well furnished reading rooms, it does not befit the minister of the gospel to lag behind those whom he has been set apart to instruct. In all the branches of human knowledge he must be well informed, and should always be intellectually, as well as religiously ahead of the community in which he lives, endeavoring

"To teach man's greatest good,
And turn his erring steps from evil ways."

To reach and maintain this position, he must have a more than ordinary mental furniture—a mind capable of clear, sturdy, protracted, effective thought, and prepared at the same time so to present the results of its thinking as to attract and benefit those with whom he may be brought in contact. With men whose piety enlivens, quickens, pervades their whole nature, whose range of mind qualifies them for a dignified and able treatment of the vast themes of the gospel, the ministry cannot fail to be in the present age, as it has always been in the past, a fountain of mighty influences, an agency of tremendous power, to bless the world.

Literary Notices.

THE WHITE HILLS: Their Legends, Landscape and Poetry. By THOMAS STARR KING. Dawson Brothers, Great St. James street, Montreal.

The object of this volume is to direct attention to the noble landscapes that lie along the routes by which the White Mountains are now approached by tourists, many of which are still unknown to travelers; to help persons to appreciate landscape more adequately, and to associate with the principal scenes, poetic passages which illustrate either the permanent character of the views, or some peculiar aspects in which the author of the book has seen them. Had the volume been arranged by subjects instead of by districts, and

the scenery treated under the heads of rivers, passes, peaks, &c., it would have had more artistic unity, but as a guide to particular landscapes, and a stimulant to the enjoyment of them, it is as it stands more valuable on the whole. Great care has evidently been taken to make the poetic quotations pertinent to the particular districts with which they are brought into connection, and to introduce them so that, instead of being mere additions and ornaments, they shall continue and complete the description attempted, or embody its predominant sentiment.

The book in short will amply repay a perusal from any one who is interested in the scenery of these Mountains, and who with