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Personal Preaching.

A candidate for priest's orders, preaching his extempore trial sermon before Bishop Tait and Dean Stanley, in his nervousness began stammering: "I will divide my congregation into 'two, the converted and the unconverted.'" This proved too much for the Bishop's sense of humor; and he exclaimed, "I think, sir, as there are only two of us, you had better say which is which."

Do Your Best.

A Sunday evening or two ago at Galena, Ill., it was chill with rain and the congregation was small. Dr. Charles C. McLean gave his people the regular sermon, just as though the congregation was as large as it had been in the morning. Dr. McLean, in his early days, on a stormy evening, found a small audience present, when he saved his regular discourse, giving a short talk followed by a prayer service. One good sister, in her petition, uttered something like this: "Oh, Lord, teach our pastor that those who have braved the storm, are deserving of the best that he has." The lesson contained in the good-natured rebuke was not forgotten.

Hitting Back.

An Irish journal, by way of revenge, no doubt, publishes some excellent English bulls. It begins with the Hyde Park orator, who, in the middle of a tirade upon landlords and capitalists, suddenly electrified his audience by exclaiming: "If these men were landed on an uninhabited island they wouldn't be there half an hour before they would have their hands in the pockets of the naked savages." A second is quoted, almost as good: "All along the untrodden paths of the future we can see the hidden footprints of an unseen hand." A third is found to be a preacher's peroration: "We pursue the shadow; the bubble bursts; it leaves the ashes in our hands." A fourth might be added to the list; it was a brilliant exordium on the part of an English politician: "We shall never rest until we see the British lion walking hand in hand with the flood-gates of democracy."

A Short Sermon.

Short sermons have been preached. We have heard of them. We would not be much surprised if it should be proven that the short sermon delivered on a recent Sunday by a Michigan preacher surpasses all previous records. A prominent member of the Detroit Conference, in the Michigan Christian Advocate, vouches for the genuineness of the incident. During the day referred to, the pastor had been requested by several prominent officials to cut his evening sermon short. When he appeared before the congregation the preacher announced that if the sermon he should then deliver was too long he would give them the next time only the text. Here is the sermon, verbatim et literatim: "Text—Luke 16, 24: 'And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue, for I am tormented in this flame.'"

"Three persons—Abraham, Dives, Lazarus.

- "1. It was hot where Dives was.
- "2. He did not like it.
- "3. He wanted to get out.
- "4. So do we.

"Let us pray."
—Central Christian Advocate.

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