

"1. The duty of Christian earnestness—'Rise';

"2. The duty of Christian energy—'Let us be going.'"

We can not follow the impassioned sweep of his movement as he unfolds these two thoughts, in reaching his impressive conclusion :

"There is a past which is gone forever. But there is a future which is still our own."

Preaching that has these qualities can not well fail to be effective.

Robertson's sermons have come to us in such fragmentary and, so to speak, second-hand, shape, that the unity that was doubtless in them is not always apparent; but nevertheless it must have been there. The sermon before us, for example, has been given only a half title, "The Irreparable

Past," and seems to have a double subject, but the unity comes out the moment its theme is stated as :

"The Irreparable Past an incentive for making the most of the Available Future."

"The Positive Note in Preaching."

In a recent number of *The British Weekly*, Dr. John Watson, better known as Ian Maclaren, makes the following valuable suggestions on this important point :

"Preaching has too largely lost the positive note; a preacher ought to be positive; the preacher ought to be positive about the right things; a preacher ought to be positive in the right spirit; the vast majority of Christian people hold the same verities; and the preacher has good grounds for being positive."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

"THE TWENTIETH CENTURY'S CALL."

Campaign on Christian Evidences and the Bible.

In the line of the Editorial Notes begun in September last, we have space in this issue to make only a practical suggestion to the minister. It is that the present is an opportune time for a campaign, from the pulpit, on Christian Evidences and the Bible itself.

That profound thinker, Hermann Ulrici, in the opening chapter of "Gott und die Natur," accounts for the modern atheistic tide in Germany. Kant taught that the existence of God could not be proved, indeed did not need to be proved. The preachers and teachers accepted his views and ceased to present any arguments or proofs of the being of God. Hence, the people, ceasing to have any reasons in mind for believing in God, ceased to believe in him.

In this country the present generation has heard very little from the pulpit concerning the Evidences of Christianity. The Bible in its grand unity and in the scope and unity of its separate books has largely given place

to disconnected treatment of topics and texts. At the same time the people have had their attention fixt upon a steady fire of criticism from the outside directed against both Christianity and the Bible. As a result they have to a great extent lost their faith in Christianity and the Bible through losing out the reasons for such faith.

We are satisfied that the only remedy is to be found in laying anew the foundations. That must be done by each generation for itself, and by each individual for himself. Can we not have a concerted movement all along the line, for this purpose? It should include :

1st. The presentation to the people anew of the Evidences of the Divine origin and character of our Christianity, and that in the best form, and up to date,—so that they shall have reason for the faith that is in them.

2d. The opening of the Bible as a whole and in all its parts, so that the people shall know what the Bible is, and receive its overwhelming evidence to its own divinity.

What response have the brethren to this suggestion?