

tender sympathies of christian effort, and the coronet of the noble gains fresh glory in the senate, by an unanswerable defence of these God-blessed works, do we not feel a deepening faith in our heaven-given religion, and a joyous expectation of the ushering in of the morning of earth's jubilee? Now, all this is calculated to direct our gaze more intently on our own vineyard. What blossom is there? What promise of vintage? What clusters of ripe fruit? The inquiry comes home directly to ourselves, as to the faithfulness with which we have kept our own vineyard. If there has been neglect; if wrong modes have been employed; or if a self-glorifying spirit has been indulged; then there is room for deep repentance and abasement before the Master. The opportunity in the anticipated meeting for special reference to the revival work, will be constantly present in all the devotional services; besides, the many important subjects that come under review, will necessarily afford just ground for stirring remarks in connection with the great work of saving souls. To be fully impressed with a sense of the responsibility of watching for souls, renders it more likely that those thus filled with the momentous nature of their work, will do it conscientiously and alteration or repair in machinery, will avail little when there is a defective power applied for its motion. The utmost efficiency can only be secured when the power is equal to the end intended. We despair of the best order of things accomplishing great results, apart from power from on high. Faithful, waiting, praying, and working churches may expect the presence and the power of Him, before whose might Alpine heights of difficulty are levelled. "Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain; not by might nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord." If one thing more than another ought to fill our hearts, it appears to us that should be an intense solicitude for that baptism of the Holy Spirit, by which our lips shall be touched with hallowed fire. Then the success of men of God would be sure, for truth's victories would be multiplied. What shield of unbelief could prove impervious to the Ithuriel spear; what ice of indifference could resist the action of heavenly love; what rock of wordliness remain unbroken by the hammer of God's word?

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#### READ OR SPOKEN SERMONS:—WHICH THE BEST?

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[The following is the substance of an Essay, read before the North Western Association, at their last semi-annual meeting, and is sent to the Magazine for publication, at their earnest request. J. U.]

This is a subject which is now agitating the churches, and disturbing the minds of many ministers. Some among both are contending that written sermons only should be preached; while others as strongly contend they should never be read, but spoken.

The object of this paper is to present the subject both in its positive and negative aspect; leaving the decision as to which is the best, or whether a combined practice of both is not desirable, to your individual judgments.

#### I.—POSITIVELY.—"SERMONS OUGHT TO BE READ."

1st. Reading gives the preacher a better opportunity of giving the results of his analysis and exposition of the text. Some portions of Scripture are simple, and