

message no two of them need be exactly alike. Or, in other words, naturalness contributes to freshness. The preacher who is himself, provided he has the necessary gifts and graces, is not likely to be deadly dull, as the preacher who honestly and earnestly gives of what he has (no one can give anything more or other) is not likely to be uninteresting and ineffective.

The freshness of novelty can be easily had. Frequent enough changes in the pastorate will secure it, and while to a certain extent that way of securing it is allowable and right, sometimes necessary, yet the freshness that depends upon constant change is not going to be really helpful to either pastor or people. What is needed is freshness of thought and experience, growing development of life and character, and with the inexhaustible Word for our text-book, the all-wise and Holy Spirit for our teacher, and He who spake as never man spake for our example, it ought not to be difficult for us to make our teaching and preaching refreshing and helpful to those who wait upon our ministry.

A. S.

THAT MINISTER.

I MEAN that particular one over whom some of our Religious Weeklies have been so much exercised lately. He has as yet no name; but we are bound to believe, from the serious tone of the writing, that it ought to be Achan. He is the man whose congregation is in trouble, and it doesn't thrive, and it is discouraged, and it wants to get rid of him and it can't. What is wrong with him? The list is appalling. To begin with, he is a poor preacher. That is, he is so considered now by the troubled ones. It wasn't always so; once there was quite a flourish of trumpets over him. But now, alas! his preaching is weak and pointless; that is, when it is not too pointed and too vigorous just where the points show up. His temper is also at fault. Then he doesn't visit; or he is too much among the people and too little in his study. He lacks adaptation to this particular congregation; he might do much good elsewhere, but his usefulness is gone here. This last fault is sufficiently general to cover