

ners and the development of the Christian life and activities, are to be attained.

But all these topics, most interesting and important, must be passed over for the present, while we consider a few special principles of direct effectiveness, that may be denominated *Bible qualities*, that enter more or less into the style of the powerful preachers of all times, but that are peculiarly a necessity for the pulpit of the present time.

1. The first of these is the concrete presentation of truth. The Word of God needs to be presented more in concrete form. The idea, apparently of so many, that the preacher's chief mission is to turn his text into abstract truth, or "glittering generality," with which to ply a sleepy congregation, is all wrong. However necessary the process of abstraction may be for the purposes of systematic theology, it is not the Bible method of reaching men. There was never a truer utterance than that of Coleridge, in one of the introductory aphorisms in his "Aids to Reflection:" "To restore a commonplace truth to its first uncommon luster, you need only translate it into action." What we can see has power. The Lord's Supper takes advantage of this principle, and, embodying the central truth of the Gospel, addresses it to reason and faith, with the added power of the senses. It is thus the most powerful of all presentations of the doctrine of the cross.

And accordingly we find scripture everywhere presenting its truth largely in living shape and relation, in history and individual experience and incident, and thereby attaining to a perpetual freshness and interest. The pulpit of a day in which the world presents everything in the concrete needs to take pattern of the Bible in this regard. Volumes on faith in the abstract can never so unfold its nature, to the masses of men, as will the exposition of that master example in Abraham's offering of Isaac. Volumes on parental responsibility in the abstract can never so fix the idea in the hearts of men, in all its fulness, as will that terribly solemn example of a pious father's grief over a favorite son gone down to perdition through his agency, that is brought before us in David's lament over his son Absalom. For our instruction and guidance, God's Word has put its utterances in these forceful shapes; and we may find in it instances without number, applicable to every possible phase of life, whether in its faith and work, or in its relations to family, state, and church. Here is one of the powers that God has put into the hands of the ministry to be used in their mission, and it is preeminently the demand of this age, as well as of human nature, that it be used freely and largely.

2. The second is the illustrative presentation of truth. God's truth must be presented, as is the Bible manner, with apt and ample illustration.

Ruskin (in part iii., vol. ii., of "Modern Painters") has drawn out that noble theory that affirms of all inherent beauty that it is typical of the divine attributes. It is a magnificent thing in the

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