

state what these circumstances and needs are. As a matter of fact the desire of change exists almost as much there as here, but the power to carry out this desire doesn't. Congregations as yet in the "old country" do not dominate the church courts, and as a consequence the minister feels that under all ordinary circumstances his position is perfectly secure. There are doubtless advantages as well as disadvantages connected with both systems. In the "old country" the minister in the discharge of his duties is more fully protected against the effects of personal spite and petty persecution. But, after all, men are much the same all the world over; they have not less common sense and consideration on this side of the Atlantic than on the other. People anywhere will after a time tire of learning, of eloquence, of everything; but they seldom tire of a beautiful character. They will forgive a man much, if he be a good man.

There is one source of pulpit power that hardly receives the attention it deserves in the present day. It cannot be acquired in any college; it cannot be found among the books of the study, however well selected; it cannot be bestowed even by any degree of grace. We mean, knowledge of men. There is only one place where it can be learned, in the world, among sinful, suffering, sorrowing, struggling men and women. Many a young man to-day leaves college, fully equipped, as he thinks, for the work of the ministry, only to discover, after a time, that his sermons are lacking in the power to impress, and that his general management of the affairs of his congregation is somehow defective. He has been honestly anxious to do good, and yet comparatively he has failed. The secret in the majority of cases is that, though he knows something of the world of books, he knows practically nothing of the world of men. The present infatuation of some congregations for very young men, is hard to understand. It is not a man's fault, of course, that he is young; but, other things being equal, one would say, that a man with a wide experience of life is better fitted to be the spiritual guide of struggling men and women than an inexperienced youth. It is said of our Lord that He