

among the most beautiful in the Gospel. "The whole need not a physician." "Much forgiven, much love." "There is joy in finding things lost." These constitute Christ's apologetic. They are His defence against the earliest attack on Christianity as a religion, whose essence and inmost spirit is redeeming love. Verily an effective defence! Would that we could all play the apologist to as good purpose!

2. The preacher must perform this part now and then *if he would do justice to all his hearers*. In most congregations there are young men, earnest, thoughtful, noble-spirited, who are in a transition stage between the faith of childhood, which rests on authority, and the faith of manhood, which knows how to justify itself at the bar of reason. Their number may be small in proportion to the whole congregation, but that is no reason why they should be neglected. A good shepherd thinks it worth while to go after even one straying sheep, leaving the ninety and nine to feed safely in the pastures. A minister is indeed tempted to neglect the few who err in the paths of religious doubt from fear that the believing flock will grumble. "I suspect," writes an honest German pastor, "that in proclaiming Christian truth we all allow ourselves to be too much influenced by the claims of those who without trouble appropriate to themselves the riches of spiritual knowledge out of the holy Scriptures." Those who act otherwise need not expect thanks. The ninety-nine will complain when the pastor goes after the one, even for the space of ten minutes. *Experto crede*. "Why," once asked me a respectable old gentleman, comfortably wealthy and orthodox—"why do you speak so much about doubts? I have no doubts." "Be thankful," I replied; "all are not so fortunate. Do you see those young men in the back seats? You don't know them? They are strangers, who come here from other parishes because I have something to say to them that will help them in their doubts."

Sometimes the impatience with doubt is in the minister himself. Why should doubters receive special attention? Is not ordinary Gospel preaching good enough for them? If not, let them go to a revival meeting and get converted, or let them study their Bible and the Confession of Faith. No wise man will take up this cavalier, contemptuous attitude. Even though aware that doubt, unsettling of faith, brings temptations to conceit and opinionativeness, he will not taunt the doubter with these and kindred vices of the spirit, but will remember that it is in all probability a case of a human soul being led of the Divine Spirit into the wilderness to be tried and purified, and compelled to dive into the deep, dark sea of doubt in quest of a faith which, when found, shall be indeed a pearl of great price. He will recognize once for all that there are people who cannot be made believers offhand by appeals to the emotions, but who must be reasoned with carefully, candidly, discriminatingly, as Christ and the apostles reasoned with the Jews, in meekness instructing even those that opposed themselves, not to speak of honest inquirers. And surely it is worth while taking pains. When you carry a thinking man's reason, as well as his