

do. Old Latimer, in one of his London sermons, declines to specify certain modes of wrong-doing prevalent in the region of his birthplace, saying, "The whilk I will not tell ye, lest ye should do the like." I think that, for lack of such caution, ministers sometimes suggest, if not immoralities, at least doubts, difficulties and objections, which else would not have entered into the minds of their hearers, and thus raise from the realm of shadows, spirits which it is beyond their skill to lay.

If I may do so without incurring the charge of undue egotism, I should like to describe two classes of sermons of which I preached a great many during a continuous pastorate of twenty-seven years. If a question were asked me as to some topic of Christian doctrine, scriptural exegesis, ethical principle or moral obligation, I would often say, "I will give you my answer in next Sunday's sermon"; and, again, when I had a prolonged conversation with one of my flock on some such subject, I would often recast my part of the conversation into a sermon. These, I am sure, were my most useful sermons. I became convinced that there are no mental, moral or spiritual idiosyncrasies; for when I addressed myself, so far as I knew, to the solitary case of a single individual, before I left the church one and another person would come up to me and say, "Your sermon is just what I needed;" or, "You have said precisely what I have been waiting to hear." I never had such warm and grateful recognition of sermons that cost me a vastly larger amount of time, study and labor.

Another source of materials for Sunday use which I found of great avail was the mid-week expository lecture, which always saved, instead of wasting, time for the pulpit. The careful study of the passage to be expounded always suggested topics, furnished illustrations, and started trains of thought, which could be utilized for sermons.

(Concluded in our next number.)

III.—HOW TO FORM A MINISTER'S LIBRARY.

BY J. O. MURRAY, D.D., DEAN OF PRINCETON COLLEGE.

THE suggestions to be offered in this article presuppose two things, *First*, that the minister has only a moderate sum of money to spend for books; and *Secondly*, that he wishes to lay it out most economically, that is, most advantageously for his work as a minister of the gospel. It may be well also to state that a comparatively small library may be made a very choice one, and, if formed on right principles of selection may be more useful than one much more extensive chosen heterogeneously. Numbers in a working library count only when each book has positive value. It is not rash to say that the defect in the formation of most ministerial libraries is that they have been collected