

ask and answer questions. When Philip joined himself to the Eunuch, his first salutation was, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" With that same question should pastors come among their flocks. Pastoral visits instead of being visits of form and ceremony, with the gossip of the day richly interlarding the discourse, should be visits on the business of the King, conducted in faithfulness and thoroughness as well as with despatch. Such a way of dealing with the flock would go a great way to open the eyes of ministers as to the style of preaching suited in their pulpits, and would, also, go far to bring down the inordinate conceit of some men who have an idea, as long as they are never questioned, of the meagreness, and mistiness of their theological knowledge.

4. *Let the preaching of the day be directed to the consciences of men.* The best definition of man is, "A being built up around conscience." The soul of man lifts his body up above the lower animals; but the conscience lifts the soul to the image and fellowship of God. It is to their conscience the Bible appeals. The preaching that has always been most effective in producing revivals of religion, and reformation of manners, was like that of Peter on the day of Pentecost, like the preaching of Luther, and of Edwards—a preaching to the conscience—a reasoning with men of "righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come." But of late there has been coming in on the land a style of preaching addressed to the lower faculties, to the intellect, feelings, or the imagination, or the manhood, whatever that means, to the neglect of the regal faculty—the conscience. The tendency of some

kinds of preaching is to obscure the justice of God, to excuse, paint and palliate sin, to pet and flatter the sinner, until men, in some quarters and under such preachers as Beecher, are beginning to feel and act as if conscience was the lackey and not the lord, the servant and not the supreme master in mansoul. The pulpit must awaken the conscience of the nation and keep it awake, or else our boasted civilization will only hasten our descent into a general defection of morals and corruption of manners. It is a clear understanding of whither the masses are drifting, in spite of schools and newspapers, that makes the secular press of Britain and the United States so favourable to the effort being made by Moody and Sankey, to awaken the consciences of men, and to call them to lives of faith and good works.

It is wrong for any of our readers to put these things away from himself, as if he had no call to the work of making stronger the defences of our national life. In the days of old, when the walls of Jerusalem had to be raised in troublous times, every man put his hand to the work. We read that all the people builded: the priests and Levites were in the work, as justly they ought to be; and so were the nobles and the people; the merchants and the goldsmiths; the singers and the apothecaries, every one was in the work, each one raising what of the wall was opposite his own house. "So the wall was finished in fifty-two days." And what next? "And it came to pass, that when all the enemies heard thereof, and all the heathen that were round about us saw these things, they were much cast down in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was wrought of our God."