

How to Preach.

Make no apologies. If you have the Lord's message, deliver it; if not, hold your peace. Have short prefaces and introductions. Say your best things first, and stop before you get prosy. Do not spoil the appetite for dinner by too much thin soup. Leave self out of the pulpit, and take Jesus in. Defend the gospel, and let the Lord defend you and your character. If you are lied about, thank the devil for putting you on your guard, and take care that the story shall never come true. Let your beard grow. Throw away your cravat. If you do not "want to break," make your shirt collar an inch larger, and give your blood a chance to flow back to the heart. Do not get excited too soon. Do not run away from your hearers. Engine driving-wheels fly fast with no load, but when they draw anything, they go slower. It takes a cold hammer to bend a hot iron. Heat up the people, but keep the hammer cool. Do not brawl and scream. Too much water stops mill wheels, and too much noise drowns sense. Empty vessels ring the loudest. Powder isn't shot. Thunder isn't lightning. Lightning kills. If you have lightning, you can afford to thunder; but do not try to thunder out of an empty cloud.

Do not scold the people. Do not abuse the faithful souls who come to meeting rainy days, because of the others who do not come. Preach the best to the smallest assemblies. Jesus preached to one woman at the well, and she got all Samaria out to hear him next time. Ventilate your meeting room. Sleeping in church is due to bad air oftener than to bad manners. Do not repeat, saying, "as I said before." If you said it before, say something else after. Leave out words you cannot define. Stop your declamation and talk to folks. Come down from stilted and sacred tones and become a little child. Change the subject if it goes hard. Do not tire yourself and every one else out. Do not preach till the middle of your sermon buries the beginning and is buried by the end. Look people in the face, and live so that you are not afraid of them. Take long breaths, fill your lungs and keep them full. Stop to breathe before the air is exhausted. Then you will not finish off each sentence-ah with a terrible gasp-ah, as some preachers do-ah, and so strain their lungs-ah, and never

find it out-ah, because their friends dare not tell them-ah, and so leave them to make sport for the Philistines-ah! Inflate your lungs. It is easier to run a mile with a full pond than an empty one. Be moderate at first. Hoist the gate a little way; when you are half through, raise a little more; when nearly done, put on a full head of water. Aim at the mark. Hit it. Stop and see where the shot struck, and then fire another broadside. Pack your sermons. Make your words like bullets. A board hurts a man worse if it strikes him edgewise.—*Ex.*

Swamping the Dead Sea.

One of the most novel proposals of the day is to relieve the Suez Canal by cutting a passage between the Bay of Acra and the Gulf of Akabah by way of Esdraelon and the Jordon. The engineering difficulties between the Dead and the Red Seas are practically unknown. A survey is to be made of this region, and, if favorable, an effort will be made to carry out the proposal. Grave political questions must arise, and the Porte will take a long time to consent or refuse definitely. But supposing it can be done, it will completely change the geography and social condition of the Holy Land. Fancy the rich and varied field flowers of Sharon nodding beside the smoke of a "P. and O." steamer. The waters will flood hundreds of square miles of the depressed valley of the Jordon. The Sea of Galilee will be affected, and places of sacred memories will no longer preserve the very features that call back the scenes of holy work and speech: they will be no longer recognizable. Happily, Dean Stanley and Dr. Thomson have marked these revered spots, but they must lose half their charm to pilgrim-travelers when the whole water system is changed. Should the water rise up the wadys and approach Jerusalem, that ancient city may again become prosperous. As yet this is only a speculation of the engineering craft, but it means the effacement of old landmarks and a very revolution to Bedouins of the desert and the villagers on the plains. Mechanics and money will have no pity for the conservative sentiment that clings to keeping things to-day as they long have been.—*Ex.*

Beware of judging hastily. It is better to suspend an opinion than to retract an assertion.

Hold on to your tongues when you are ready to swear, lie, or speak harshly

Hold on to your hand when you are on the point of punching, scratching, stealing, or doing any improper act.

Hold on to your foot when you are on the point of kicking, running from study, or pursuing the path of error, shame or crime.

Hold on to your temper when you are angry, excited, or imposed upon, or others are angry with you.

Hold on to your heart when evil associates seek your company, and invite you to join in their mirth-games and revelry.

Hold on to your good name at all times, for it is of more value than gold, high placés, or fashionable attire.

Hold on to truth, for it will serve you well, and do you good throughout eternity.

Hold on to virtue—it is above all price to you, at all times and places.

Hold on to your character, for it is and ever will be your best wealth.—*Ex.*

I always believed in life rather than books. I suppose every day on earth, with its hundred thousand deaths, and something more of births—with its loves and hates, its triumphs and defeats, its pangs and blisses—has more humanity in it than all the books that were ever written put together. I believe the flowers growing at this moment send up more fragrance to heaven than ever exhaled from all the essences that were ever distilled.—*Oliver Wendell Holmer.*

They are great lives that fashion themselves in prayer. Their communion with God gives them something of the dignity of their associations. All the belittling things of life are obscured and hidden under the august conceptions that engross the mind when it is holding conceptions with God. Outwardly, such a life may be plain and bare, but inwardly it is filled with the peace and warmth of the gospel, and it is fruitful in spiritual results that shall be counted among the treasures of heaven.—*United Presbyterian.*

Gravity must be natural and simple. There must be urbanity and tenderness in it. A man must not formalize on everything. He who formalizes on everything is a fool, and a grave fool is perhaps more injurious than a light fool.—*Cecil.*

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