

§ 21. *Preaching, Remarks struck out in Talk with J. A. A.*—1. Almost all extemporaneous preachers have this fault; they talk about the *way* in which they are preaching—Thus: “After a few preliminary remarks, I shall proceed to,” &c. ; or “What I lay down shall take the form of general principles.” “I come with hesitation,” &c. “I shall be more brief on this point.” “You will observe that in this discussion I do so and so.” Avoid all such observations.—More generally still, avoid all that brings the speaker’s personality before the hearer. A better model than our honoured father in this there could not be.

2. Whenever I write down heads, from which to preach extempore, I always find myself disappointed, by not having as much to say under each as I thought, but whenever I premeditate a subject, and take my pen to write on it, I always find myself disappointed in a way exactly opposite.

3. Addison says truly, there is this difference between him and me. I am more warm and ornate when I do not write; he, when he does.

4. As men who strut in walking, sometimes find it difficult to get out of it, and step in the ordinary way, so in writing men get into a measured, rhythmical, ornamental flow of diction, and find it hard, even when the subject demands it, to come down to the pedestrian style. Hence a great argument for simplicity. What a wonderful simplicity in Goethe! It is his characteristic in regard to style. Even Voltaire, simple as his structure of sentence always lies, has a mannerism: so has Macaulay. The reader comes to look for a certain pungent apodosis. In Goethe, nothing leads you to expect any particular bringing up of the period, or antithesis of the thought.

§ 22. *Overhaul Sermons.*—It strikes me as a great neglect that I have scarcely ever looked over my pulpit MSS. except when I was going to preach. There is much work to be done in this field at other times.

§ 23. *On Writing down One’s Thoughts.*—I mean such writing as I put in this book.