

preaching it more useful than a style which does not correspond with the demands of the subject. The very reason, for which God requires us to preach the word, makes it necessary to preach it well, to speak according to the best rules of elocution, which are no other than the rules prescribed by nature, by the God of nature.

Much of that which passes under the name of preaching, does not deserve the name. It may be called a poor kind of singing, a tedious method of drawing, a soporific way of reading, but it is not the living utterance of such thought as enkindles the eye, the gushing forth of those emotions which cannot be fully expressed except in the forms of eloquence. One reason why preaching is less effective than we should antecedently expect it to be, is the fact that there is *less of it* than we ordinarily suppose. All the dull, clumsy, turgid, weak, insipid, and in any way affected methods of delivery, are to be subtracted from the sum total of what is denominated preaching; and then how small is the remainder!

God will honor the laws which he has made, and will manifest his displeasure toward the violation of these laws. The true rules of elocution are established by the Author of our being, and will not be obeyed without advantage nor disobeyed without loss; and no preacher can regard himself as serving God, or doing good to man, in the act of contravening the laws of speech. He may be useful in spite of his opposition to nature and providence, but not by means of that opposition. Truth ill administered may do good; truth well administered will do more. The proprieties of the administration add a power to the truth; the improprieties of the administration take a power away from it.

It has long been a desire of good men, to make the services of the sanctuary as attractive as possible. Music, and architecture, and painting, and sculpture have all imparted of their fascinations to the exercises of worship. Every age has witnessed the invention of some new rite, or the restoration of one that had become obsolete. New measures and strange measures have made their appeal to the fancy of men, and have charmed it for a time. But