

the negro who had accompanied the old man, he inquired, "Is your master a Christian?" "No, sah, he's a Prisbyterian." Much disconcerted, Mr. Moody sought still to turn the conversation to profit, so, addressing the negro, he said, "Are you a Christian?" "Yes, sah, I'se a Mefodis."—*E. Eggleston; Scribner's Monthly.*

THE propensity to compare is frequently indulged in foolish and injurious ways. It cuts us to the heart when we hear excellent ministers decried, because they are not like certain others. You cannot logically institute comparisons where they do not hold. Rugged Cephas has his place and order, and he is neither better nor worse, higher nor lower in value, than polished Apollos. No one inquires which is the more useful—a needle or a pin, a spade or a hoe, a waggon or a plough; they are designed for different ends,

and answer them well; but they could not exchange places without serious detriment to their usefulness. It is true that A. excels in argumentative power; let him argue, then, for he was made on purpose to convince men's reasons; but because B.'s style is more expository do not despise him, for he was sent not to reason, but to teach. If all the members of the mystical body had the same office and gift, what a wretched malformation it would be; it would hardly be so good as that, for it would not be a formation at all. If all ears, mouths, hands, and feet were turned into eyes, who would hear, eat, grasp, or move? A church with a Luther in every pulpit would be all fist; and with a Calvin to fill every pastorate, she would be all skull. Blessed be God for one Robert Hall; but let the man be whipped who tries in his own person to make a second. Rowland Hill is admirable for once, but it is quite as well that the mould was broken.—*C. H. Spurgeon.*

The Early Christian Writers.

BY THE REV. E. ELMER HARDING, M.A., LICHFIELD.

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