

produce a complete change in a very large amount of farinaceous matter. The second is, that it is only necessary to start the process of change in one or a few spots in the mass, where the particles of the leaven happen to be, in order to have it permeate the entire heap. It is not necessary that a particle of the leaven should actually come in contact with every particle of the mass. It need only commence a process in one spot, which will spread of itself through the whole, or at least to a great extent.

To return now to my text,—such a power does Christ declare the gospel to possess. *The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.* Hence I take for my subject on this occasion, *The Catalytic Power of the Gospel.* I wish to show that wherever that is cast into the dead and inert mass of human society, it shows a quickening, expanding, and multiplying power possessed by no other human institution.

In order to avoid misapprehension, let me premise one or two remarks. Because I shall attempt to show that gospel truth has a mighty power over the human heart, let no one imagine me a disbeliever in the necessity of a special divine influence to give that truth success. In that doctrine most cordially do I acquiesce; and when I speak of a peculiar efficacy of the truth, I assume that the conversion of men is *not by might, nor by power, but by the Spirit of the Lord of hosts.* My only object is to show that the truth, in itself, possesses a peculiar adaptedness to win its way and transform society. And surely it will encourage our efforts, as well as make us feel more deeply our obligations, to learn what an admirable instrument God has put into our hands with which to labor.