

together in rousing and startling the hearers. Another characteristic feature of his preaching was the power of concentrating the attention of his hearers on one fixed point—whether a Bible character, an event in Scriptural history, a doctrine, or a divine precept—and having set it up before you till your attention was secured, he seemed to surround it with such a flood of light, that it stood before you in almost visible distinctness, literally haunting you for weeks and months afterwards, as haunts the traveller some special sights which have most impressed his mind. But the commanding feature of his power was earnestness. Many circumstances lent a charm to his address: his striking intellectual appearance; a voice of great sweetness and compass; a diction slightly tinged with the poetic, and peculiarly his own; the silvery accent of his fine English voice;—these combined exerted an influence in favour of the speaker. But overtopping them all, and in a brief space sweeping them all out of sight, was that earnestness which seemed to infuse the soul of the speaker, beneath his glowing periods and burning words, into the very hearts of his hearers. It was the remark of a brother, on retiring from listening to one of his addresses on the platform, "Is it not a pity that such a man should be addressing an audience like this; they cannot appreciate him, so far as the intellectual side of his address was concerned." There may have been some truth in this. Doubtless, the humblest of his audience may have failed to comprehend some of his language, or grasp the elevation of his thought; but the humblest failed not to catch the spirit of the speaker. A sight of their faces set all doubt at rest. There was the excited interest, the rapt delight mingled, no doubt, with a trace, here and there, of bewilderment. One of these plain hearers remarked to the writer on hearing just such an address, "I never heard the like of that before—long as I have been in this world."

As a man and a Christian, to know him was to love him; as a husband, affectionate and sympathizing; as a father, blending the gentle and the firm, he ruled well his own house; as a ruler in God's house, faithful, yet drawing, by a singular power of attraction, the hearts of his people towards him; in the community around him, the object of universal respect and esteem. A little incident will explain the secret of this esteem. Meeting a man one day, the name of Mr. Duncan was mentioned. "I never heard him speak, but one thing I know," said he; "he is a very pleasant man to meet on the road." Held in highest respect and love by every one of his brethren in the ministry who enjoyed his friendship, he was uniformly kind and courteous; and in reference to his brethren, he seemed to have an eye only for their excellencies, none for their weaknesses. Indeed, of all the fathers and brethren with whom I have been personally acquainted, I know of none that surpassed him in drinking in the spirit of these lovely Scriptures: "Let the same mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus." "Charity suffereth long and is kind; vaunteth not itself; is not puffed up; thinketh no evil; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things." "Put on, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering; let the peace of God rule in your heart; be thankful." When speaking of his love of the quiet home, and shrinking from publicity, the inference would be altogether incorrect that, absorbed in his own world of thought, he looked with indifference upon what was passing in the world around. On the contrary, no man more thoroughly sympathized with the maxim of the ancient philosopher, "whatever concerns man concerns me." First of all, he ever manifested the deepest interest in all that concerned the interests of that "kingdom which is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in