

passing through the College, if God spare their valuable lives—will, by efficient service in the vineyard, show the value of an educated ministry, as its importance could not be set forth in any mere address ; such as this to which you have listened so patiently.

THOMAS BINNEY.

PART I.

“ Dear Mr. Binney is sinking fast, but he has great peace.” So wrote a mutual friend to the present writer a few weeks ago, and soon, too soon alas, the end came. On the 24th February as noble and true a spirit as had ever tabernacled in the flesh, went upward at the call of the Master, and entered into rest.

Thos. Binney was born at Newcastle-on-Tyne, in the year 1798. He served the full term of a seven years apprenticeship to a bookseller, at the expiration of which, having given his heart to God, and himself to the Christian Ministry, he entered Wymondley College. After the completion of his college course, he received a call to Newport, in the Isle of Wight. During his pastorate there he preached that series of discourses on a part of the tenth chapter of Hebrews, which was published under the title of “ The Practical Power of Faith.” These discourses, which were the first product of that mine which afterwards yielded such rich golden ore, attracted considerable attention, and in the year 1829, he was invited to preach at the King’s Weigh House Chapel, London, with a view to the pastoral charge, vacant by the resignation of the Rev. John Clayton. His action on this occasion showed that openness and frankness which characterized his whole life. Calling his church together, he informed them of the invitation he had received, of the purpose of his anticipated visit to London, and that it might result in his separation from them and settling there, “ but,” he added, “ I may not be liked, and may be sent back on your hands, if so, will you take me again ?” He did not need to ask that question ; if their own feelings had been all that was at stake in the matter, his return to them under any circumstances, would have been a result for which they would most ardently have longed. But it was not to be so, he received a call to the Weigh House, left his good friends in the Isle of Wight, and entered upon his London duties. From that point began a ministerial career which, extending over a period of more than forty years, and embracing some of the most stirring times and scenes in the history of the Great Metropolis, has been one of the most marked and influential that city has ever known, and the results of which, or the earthly portion of them, are to be found to-day in every part of the world where the English language is spoken ; and the English Bible read. Coming to this Continent when in the zenith of his power, he found that he was known everywhere, and hundreds of hearts and homes were ready to give him a cordial welcome. Later in life, when visiting Australia, he was alike surprised and delighted to find that at every place he preached during his long stay, there was not a single occasion when some one, often many, were not waiting to speak to him after the service, to tell him how for a longer or shorter period they had listened to him at the Weigh House, and often to thank him for the teaching there, and to tell him that by God’s blessing, that teaching had been the lesson of salvation to them. “ It really was surprising,” said he when relating this fact, “ how many people had been to the Weigh House ; I suppose, because it was so near the monument, and so easily found.” The smile that broke over his features, and the sparkling of his small bright eyes, showed how pleasant this remembrance was to him.

Soon after his settlement at the Weigh House, the site was required for some city improvements, and the present spot on Fish St. Hill, close to the old building on Eastcheap, was acquired for a new chapel. It was at the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of this chapel that Mr. Binney uttered that famous saying