

prompted by an impulse of generosity, he took off his coat, and gave it to the boy. Surely in this instance "the boy was father to the man."

Very early in life he developed a fondness for preaching, exercising his gifts, when but a child, for the amusement of friends and neighbors, who delighted to encourage him; but his favorite audience, at this time, was a field of cabbages. Their wide open mouths and ears suggesting to him a flattering degree of attention,—a quality in his hearers, which he no doubt still regards with great appreciation.

Four years of his school life were spent at Graig House Academy, Swansea, Wales, and he afterward graduated at Haverford-west.

In his twentieth year, he was called to the pastorate of the English Baptist Church at Neath, Glamorganshire, where he began his duties August, 1862. Six years were spent here, when he was seized by an almost irresistible yearning to emigrate to the United States, an impulse so strong that he could not fail to recognize it as a Divine call.

Soon after his arrival in the United States he was called to the charge of the church at Pittston, Pennsylvania.

There seem to have been at this period of his life many indications that promised the larger measure of success, and the wider influence that came to him in after years.

His pastorate at Pittston continued for two years and nine months and was remarkably successful. He manifested great enthusiasm, and under his preaching the church grew in numbers and prosperity, and received an impetus that was felt for many years after his connection with it had been severed. The building soon became altogether inadequate to the needs of the congregation, and was increasingly so to the last, and it was with the utmost reluctance that his resignation was accepted.

One who had been a member of the church previous to Dr. Thomas's settlement in Pittston, and who was afterward a member of the Fifth Baptist Church of Philadelphia, during a large part of his pastorate there, writes:—"Soon after Dr. Thomas's settlement in Pittston, I had occasion to visit the place, and learned that the Sunday School was having a picnic in a beautiful grove near the town. I sought the grounds, and as I drew