

"It was a good joke, though not exactly to our taste. It has, however, more than once served for subsequent amusement.

"The chapel was built with the money collected by the gardener. Time and circumstances now induce me to think that there has been no detriment to morality or religion by the erection of the meeting-house which the High Church party named 'The Leek-Seed Chapel.'"

THOMAS BINNEY.*

BY THE REV. E. A. STAFFORD.

ONE who made his way up to a position of such eminence and influence as to be esteemed by very many the greatest preacher of the metropolis of London, is worthy of being somewhat known in all denominations of Christians. Thomas Binney was, without doubt, the foremost man in the Independent body, and the greatest champion of Nonconformity in England, of his time. His life began just before the present century—in 1798. After serving a church in Newport, Isle of Wight, for about five years, in 1829 he became Pastor of the King's Weigh House Chapel—so called from the fact that the earliest Nonconformists worshiped in a loft over the offices and warerooms associated with the king's beam, where, in order to avoid frauds, imported merchandise was weighed. The chapel to which Binney came, had been built for the accommodation of the congregation which had worshiped in this loft, and it in turn, in the fifth year of his pastorate, gave place to a new and very much larger one, which was the chief scene of his labours until the end of life.

Nothing could have been more suitable than his spending the strength of his ministry in such a place. To appreciate the fitness of this arena for the exercise of the powers of such a man, we must understand the London of the time when he came to it.

* *Thomas Binney: His Mind, Life and Opinions.* By the Rev. E. Paxton Hood. London: James Clarke & Co., 13 Fleet Street. 1874.