

"Spent three hours to-day in self-examination and prayer." "I look for a special blessing to-day." "Being alone I snatched the opportunity, and spent half an hour in secret intercourse with heaven. Three to five, unceasingly studied Taylor's Key, and being again left alone, I snatched another half-hour in converse with my Beloved." "At noon, after studying for two hours 'Clarke on the Hebrews,' the family then going to dine, I walked out and went to the park. Having found a sequestered spot, I wrestled with God till near four o'clock, and was greatly blessed." "After preaching was over I hurried home to my closet lest I should lose the blessing by conversing with any one." "I find that if I look for and expect my God to own my labours, I must live a life different from most of our preachers, for whom my heart melts."

These are but specimens showing how careful in conduct and earnest in prayer he was, even in the midst of a popularity so great as to prove a temptation of no ordinary strength to self-sufficiency and carelessness. Some would doubtless consider such exclusive devotion unnecessary; and, if the preacher's ambition aims no higher than the level of respectable and conventional piety, if the example of the majority of the Church is more powerful over his life than the precepts of Scripture and the teachings of the Spirit, then he will be content with a less self-denying rule of life. But it is in consecration such as Summerfield's that there lies the main secret of great spiritual power. Many an eloquent and earnest preacher wonders that his preaching has little or no saving power in it; he preaches the truth, does not wilfully keep back God's word from his hearers, has had a clear call to the ministry, and yet much of his labour appears to be almost thrown away. The reason in most cases, we have no doubt, is, he does not pay the price that must be paid for great spiritual power. He shrinks from a consecration so intense as to make him singular among his brethren. The records of the Church bear unvarying witness to this truth, that they who being called to work for God will honour Him by whole-hearted and fearless consecration, will be honoured by him with the fuller measure of Spiritual power.

From the newspaper and other notices of his preaching contained in the volume before us, we give the following:

"His preaching was the outpouring of a full heart seeking to disburden itself of the awful responsibility of its station, and to give vent to the glad tidings of the Gospel, as the Spirit gave it utterance. The discourses of this wonderful man are not made up according to the prescriptions of rhetoricians—owe nothing