

there in 1855, to preach a course of sermons to lawyers, on the moral government of God.

He consented ; and began this series to lawyers, with the text, "Commanding ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God." He showed, first, that the text assumes that every man has a conscience. Then defining this faculty, he showed what every man's conscience affirms :— (1) that he knows himself to be a sinner against God ; (2) therefore, he knows God must condemn him as a sinner ; and (3) that every man knows that his own conscience condemns him as a sinner, and holds him in that state. And so on he went, from point to point, until he had set

"Each one before the judgment throne
Of his own awful soul,"

convincing those thoughtful men that, Bible or no Bible, they were amenable to

"The unwritten law, Divine,
Immutable, eternal, not like those of yesterday,
But made ere time began."

By his powerful reasonings he next showed them that if the Bible was true, there was no hope for them. That God is good, is no ground of hope ; because His goodness may prevent His forgiving them. It may not, on the whole, be wise or good, to forgive such a world of sinners as we find ourselves to be. Left without the Bible to throw light on this matter, it is impossible for human reason to conclude that sinners can be saved.

And so on he went, until they felt themselves shut up to Christ, as their only hope ; for every man's conscience testifies, on an appeal to it, that he is a sinner, under condemnation, sentenced to the death that is the wages of his sin.

When this man of law had them thus prepared for a mighty deliverance by a Redeemer, it was then, and not till then, that the gospel did its own work among them ; and large numbers of them were hopefully converted to the Saviour.

It is but right to say that it was not only to crowds and on special occasions that President Finney handled the law and the conscience in this searching way. It was his settled conviction, as we have heard him repeat, "many a time and oft," that a large proportion of Christian preaching went for nothing, because it did not first convince its hearers of their sins, before presenting the Saviour. This explains the sharp sayings he was

credited with, and at times the accusation of rudeness and severity towards those he was not fully acquainted with. For instance, to a lady in London, who sent him an anonymous letter, and afterwards excused herself in so doing, by the fact that she was in the Established Church, and did not like to make it appear to her friends that she was an inquirer after the way of life at a Congregational minister. "Then," said the faithful teacher, "you are like the rest of those I have been preaching to, on their pride as keeping them from Christ, only in your case it has been *church pride* rather than personal pride, that has been in your way."

And that was a very cutting assault on a young heart, and one that could only be wisely made by a "master of Israel," who knew what he was about, when, on being apprised of the condition of a friend's daughter (who was resisting the gospel through what to human eyes was an undue attachment to her own good looks, and her fine clothing), meeting her walking by herself one day, he went towards her smilingly, saying : "You are a very beautiful young lady, aren't you ? and you are beautifully dressed ?" Knowing the pain he inflicted, he frankly owned it, and said he was pained himself ; but he did it on principle, her vanity had to be stabbed. And it *was stabbed*, in this case, *to death* ; for she was so overcome by the faithful rebuke, and her own mortified feeling at being found out, that she was led out of her love of a vain show in the flesh, to the fairer things of the Spirit, and the more lasting things of the eternal life.

REPORT OF THE SAKANJIMBA STATION OF THE WEST CENTRAL AFRICAN MISSION.

*Presented at the Annual Meeting, May 24th-29th,
1894.*

It having been deemed advisable for the Mission to open a fourth station to which Mr. and Mrs. Lee, of Cisamba be appointed, it was arranged that Messrs. Fay and Lee make a tour of exploration for the purpose of selecting a suitable site. Accordingly, on February 27th, 1893, they