

in which it has emerged from the hardships and uncertainties of its earlier existence into the deep, calm flow of a wide river of influence. Resting on past achievements, self-satisfied, attracting to its services numbers of men and women, who, by their culture and position, have peculiar temptations to worldliness, what rare qualities of mind and heart, what purity of life, what rich endowments of the higher spiritual powers must he possess, who can maintain in the hearts of individual members, and in the life of the church, that enthusiasm of spirituality that enables it to remain a blessing to the community by which it is surrounded, and to send out from its own fountains of life streams of refreshing to other spots less favored!

That Dr. Thomas has accomplished this result speaks in a word more than could pages of the most generous analysis of his character, personal traits, or oratorical gifts.

That his labors in Toronto have been accompanied by an unusual measure of God's blessing is evinced not merely in the outward prosperity of the church, but in the regular additions to the membership, month by month, of persons converted under his ministry, and in the quality of the manifestation of Christian life and experience in a large number of these converts. His success is not due to striking or sensational methods, but rather to an ever fresh and faithful presentation of the "simple and effective doctrines of the cross," and to the thoroughness and force of his own convictions, which enable him to impart something of the intensity and earnestness of his own nature.

His life began and his childhood was passed in scenes far removed from these of his maturer years.

Dr. Thomas was born near Narberth, Wales, in January, 1843, in a farmhouse, bearing the by no means euphonious name of Blaenffynnonne (the source of the wells). Narberth is a small town, in the western part of Wales, surrounded by a most picturesque and fruitful country. His father, the Rev. Benjamin Thomas, was pastor of the Baptist Church in Narberth for forty years. His childhood was uneventful, except for the sad loss of his mother at the age of eight. He early showed that amiability of disposition and generosity of spirit that have been throughout his life so characteristic, and it is related of him, at this time, that meeting one day a ragged boy about his own age,