

now filled the land. Trustees of great universities tendered him the highest office in their gift, and there was scarcely a position which was not open to him. But the General Conference had yet better things in store for him. The session of 1852 opened; and prophetic eyes saw in Simpson exactly the material suited to the episcopal office. He was elected and ordained, and entered upon the longest episcopal career of any American Methodist bishop. In discharge of his official duties as bishop, he visited and held Conference in all of the States and most of the territories, as well as in many foreign countries, and became the best known of any bishop in the country. In 1857, he was sent by the General Conference as a delegate to the Irish and English Conferences, and in the same year as a delegate to the Evangelical Alliance in Berlin. He extended his travels through Turkey, the Holy Land, Egypt, and Greece, returning home the following year.

Bishop Simpson early developed wonderful pulpit power. He was not only now and then great as a preacher, but uniformly superior. So stable was his reputation as a sacred orator, that none distrusted him, or ever thought of substituting another for him on the most important public occasions in Church or State. Many are the memorable events upon which he spoke, and it is safe to say that he never disappointed his audiences, however great their expectation of something unusual. His address at the grave of President Lincoln, at Springfield, Ill., was a masterpiece of fitting eulogy. His prayers at the National Republican Convention, in Chicago in 1868, and at the Centennial Exhibition openings, in Philadelphia, in 1876, were among the finest specimens of earnest invocation in the English language. His sermon before the English Wesleyan Conference in 1870, from the text, "None of these things move me," stirred the heads and hearts of those cultured Englishmen, as perhaps never before by any foreigner. His introductory discourse at the Ecumenical Conference, in City Road Chapel, London, in 1881, on the "Spirit and Life of Methodism," was eminently appropriate and powerful. And then at the close of that Conference, when he finished his masterly address, praying that Methodism might triumph gloriously in England and throughout the world, he thrilled all hearts with these eloquent words: "Let us look for that greater power, that holier baptism, and that power which shall subdue