

preaching, although in feeble health, with all his former unction and impressiveness.

The finger of Providence seemed now to point across the Atlantic, and accordingly we find him in New York, in March, 1821, where, although his health was still feeble, he was immediately engaged in ministerial labours. A speech of his, delivered in the May following, at the anniversary of the American Bible Society, produced a wonderful sensation, and at once placed him in the front rank of sacred orators. He was accepted by the Troy Conference in the following June, and stationed in the city of New York. From that time until June, 1825, the date of his death, while strength permitted, he was incessantly occupied in preaching to vast congregations, or speaking at the anniversaries of religious and charitable societies. The record of his successes on those occasions is simply marvellous. We believe that as an orator for God, America possessed no man at the time who was so universally attractive. And it is doubtful whether, since the days of Whitfield, any preacher has appeared on this continent who has wielded more genuine influence for good, in proportion to the length of his career.

It is now in place to attempt the unveiling of the secret of his power. When one moves his fellows extensively, when in the world of art, or thought, or oratory, or religion, a man appears, who by intrinsic force proves himself a master or leader of men, the cause to which the mind most usually turns is *genius*. That Summerfield possessed that gift, few perhaps would be disposed to deny. There was in him that quick and far-reaching sympathy with the beautiful, the sublime, that intuitive perception of the true and the tender in nature and humanity, that ready command of choicest language which enters into the genius of the orator; but men have possessed all these and more, whose lives have been disastrous failures. Genius equal to his has been possessed even by some ministers, who have left but few and ephemeral "footprints on the sands of time." If the question still presses, What was the secret of his peculiar power? we answer with a single sentence. Intense consecration to his Master and His work.

Let a few extracts from his diary tell how thorough and decided that consecration was: