

chiefly to be admired as a popular preacher, a theological professor and a philosophical thinker, or as a practical counsellor for the life, and a sympathetic comforter for the heart. And in acting so efficiently in such varied relations he seemed to accomplish his ends by abjuring methods commonly taken by specialists in those differing pursuits.

"I do not call Mr. Finney a great preacher," said one, greatly edified by his pulpit services, "because he does not *preach*, he only explains what other men preach about." "Mr. Finney is greatly admired as a popular preacher just now, while he is living," said his fellow-laborer, Dr. Morgan, "but the day is coming when he is to be resorted to as the profound philosopher, for his vital dissections of difficulties and his lucid definitions of fundamental truth."

As illustrating Professor Morgan's estimate of the President's ability to clarify vital truth, let two or three of his simpler definitions be recalled:

*What is Law?* "Law is a rule of action, accompanied by a sanction for the obedient, and followed by a penalty for the disobedient."

*What is Consciousness?* "Consciousness is the mind's awareness of its own states and actions."

*What are the Divine Purposes?* "Simply the making up of the Divine mind on what is to be carried out in the Divine rule of the world."

Well might the teacher ask his pupils, "Is there anything terrible in *that*?" And inquire further: "Suppose that God had not made His mind up on how He is to carry things on, how should we enjoy a life under His government?"

Common as "revival services" have become now-a-days, and "inquiry meetings" in connection with them, forty years ago Mr. Finney's proposal to hold a meeting for those inquiring the way of salvation was looked at as a piece of trans-Atlantic extravagance, and its failure foretold by the leading prophetic powers among the English Congregationalists.

When, instead of a small vestry, the preacher told the resident pastor that a place to hold over a thousand would be necessary, the British school room building, near City Road, was procured, and the first meeting of the kind in London was held. Fresh in our remembrance is the holding of that meeting, and the astonishment of the clergy and

the Christian laity at the hundreds upon hundreds seeking admission to it. By common consent, it was the Lord's doing, and marvellous in our eyes.

Said Dr. Campbell: "Mr. Finney, remember you are in England, and in London, and you are not acquainted with our people. Such a meeting you might hold in America, but you will not get the people to attend here."

Mr. Finney's reply was: "Dr. Campbell, the gospel is as well adapted to the English people as to the American; and I have no fears that the pride of the people will prevent their responding to such a call, any more than it would the people in America."

It was certainly a great sight, to see Cowper Street crowded with sober-minded English folk, gathering into such a place, to be directed "how they might make their peace with God that night."

Some of the evangelist's first conversations with the inquiring, he was wont to recall. Among others, the following may be noted to show the need the people had of some knowledge of the intent of such a meeting.

Approaching a grave, thoughtful-looking woman, the preacher said, "Have you come here under a feeling of your sinfulness, come to find your way to Christ as your Saviour?" The woman not responding, he said: "Are you aware you are a sinner, and a great sinner, in the sight of God?"

"Well, sir," said she, "I don't know *that*—I think I have always tried to do the best I could in my life."

"Then," said he, "I need not stay any longer with you, since you are in no great need of a Saviour. God is the most reasonable being in existence, and if you have always done the best you could, He does not expect anything more of you. I must go to those in tears over their sins, sorry that they have *not* done the best they could. They are the people Christ came after, to see if He could not save them from such a way of living."

Reference has been made to President Finney's legal studies, and his standing as a lawyer in his earlier days. It does not surprise us, therefore, to read in his autobiography of the request made of him by the members of the bar, and the judges, in the City of Rochester, N. Y., during the revival