

## WILLIAM BRAMWELL, OR THE HIGHER LIFE EXEMPLIFIED.

BY THE REV. GEO. O. HUESTIS.

THIS remarkable man of God, and successful minister of Jesus Christ, was born at Elswick, Lancashire, England, in 1759. His parents being strongly attached to the Established Church, and religiously inclined, endeavoured so to train their children as to imbue their minds with respect and veneration for the Church, the Bible, and the Sabbath. There was, however, in their instructions nothing concerning the necessity of a change of heart, and of inward holiness. Their highest ideal of religion seemed to be the avoidance of gross sins, and a rigid adherence to the forms and ceremonies of the Church. To visit any other place of worship was considered a serious wrong, and subjected the offender to the stern rebuke of the father who was very strict in governing his household. The subject of this sketch, however, in after life, often with grateful feelings, spoke of the moral benefit he had received from parental restraints in early life.

One of the leading excellencies of the father's character, which was inherited by the son, was an unfaltering love of the truth. Even, while in his unconverted state, William was never known to tell a lie. A good basis this for a work of grace. The awakening influences of the Holy Spirit exercised his mind when he was ten years of age. Those serious impressions and convictions never wholly left him until he was converted to God. In his sixteenth year he removed to Liverpool to assist a brother who was there engaged in mercantile pursuits. Soon after this he engaged in another business in Preston, and gave great satisfaction to his master by his strict adherence to truth. Once when a salesman was extolling an article as of superior quality, and to strengthen his statements, appealed to Mr. Bramwell, he was much surprised to hear him say, "No sir, the quality of that leather is not as good as you have represented it." Such faithfulness would by some, in commercial circles, be regarded as quite unnecessary, if not blameworthy.