

he said, 'Old fellow, what will you take for that book?' I touched him on his shoulder, and said, 'My friend, if you want a Bible, I can sell you one.' 'Then,' said he, 'I will buy one.' He then gave me the money, took the book, and added, 'Now, sir, you may depend upon it, I will read this book for myself; then he shook me by the hand, and said, 'God bless you; I hope you will do some good at these races.'

"Another case was that of a blind man (not a beggar), who listened attentively to the preaching of the gospel, and when one came up to oppose the preacher, said to him, 'My friend, I cannot see, but I can hear; take my advice, and whatever you do, don't oppose the Word of God.'

"A man who kept a gambling stall was very abusive, and wanted to know why I came there; but one of the men standing by came and took my arm, and said he wished to speak to me. After we got a little out of the crowd, he said, 'Do you think it possible for me to come to Jesus as your tract invites me?' I said, 'You are quite welcome.' He then said, 'I am afraid I am too great a sinner;' and pulling a warrant out of his pocket, desired me to look at it. It was for beating his wife. He told me, 'he had come away from his home on purpose to get out of the way; but was quite tired of his present course of life, and could easily be persuaded to any thing, and if I thought it was possible for such a one to be reclaimed, he would try it on.' I told him of the dying thief on the cross, and referred to the gospel invitations, 'Whosoever will, let him come,' 'Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.' He thanked me for my kindness, accepted a second tract, and promised to attend a place of worship on the morrow."

"A few incidents in connection with the sale of Scriptures at Barnet Fair and Races—to which one friend devoted himself—may prove interesting. The work was of a most encouraging character, for not only did the Lord bless the efforts, but there was none of that violent opposition which is sometimes met with at such places. Many of the ungodly sneered at the idea of selling the Scriptures at such a place, with some such remarks as the following: 'This is no place for the Bible;' 'What, selling the Bible here!' 'Bring them to-morrow' (this was said on the Saturday). Others seemed to encourage by their remarks, saying, 'Master, that's the best thing in the fair.' Some, while purchasing, made the following remark: 'Well, I can't buy a better thing.' One man came and tapped me on the shoulder, and said, 'May you have strength for your work.' Another one, 'This is taking up the cross,' referring to my standing on the highway to sell the Scriptures. A few men swore when asked to buy, and one man, respectably dressed, when asked to buy a Testament, said, 'I'll take it,' and walked away with it without paying for it."

THE LATE REV. CHARLES SIMMONS.

Having just received, by mail, a copy of the Sermon preached at the funeral of Mr. Simmons, by the Rev. Dr. Ide of Medway, place is gladly given to a few of the closing paragraphs, knowing that they will be highly acceptable to the many readers of the *Gospel Tribune* who have been benefited by the use of his *Scripture Manual*. In speaking of the bereaved relatives, Dr. Ide says:—

"They have reason to believe, that their departed friend was one for whom Christ had prepared a mansion in heaven. From his youth he had given satis-

factory evidence of his piety, not only to near connections and particular friends, but to the Christian community with which, to a large extent, he was intimately acquainted. His piety was strongly marked. It developed itself in his ardent attachment to divine truth, in his unwearied efforts to increase his knowledge of it, in his persevering and self-denying labors to disseminate this knowledge among men, and in his almost unexampled liberality in giving his substance for the promotion of every good object. This love for divine truth was a striking indication of the sanctification of his heart. The character, purpose, and work of God, as they are presented in the gospel, gave him unspeakable satisfaction. He had a discriminating mind, and was accustomed clearly to distinguish, and carefully to classify the doctrine and duties of the gospel, and to give them a prominent place in his conversation and preaching. But still his religion was not of a mere speculative character. It was not a cold and dry theory. There was a spiritual unction in it. I scarcely know the man that has a warmer heart, a stronger faith, a more devotional spirit, or a habit of greater activity in the cause of God, than was manifested by him. The view which he took of the divine character, and that system of grace which the Scriptures reveal, kindled up in his soul an ardent, an efficient, as well as an intelligent zeal for the honor of God, and good of mankind. Though his movements were noiseless and unobtrusive, yet were they, to a high degree, effective and salutary in their results.

He sought for knowledge as for hid treasures. He did not enjoy the advantages of an early and liberal education, such as many young men of his day enjoyed. But the native energy of his mind, his untiring application to study and the strict economy with which he husbanded his time and resources, supplied the deficiency in the means of his early training.

As a preacher he could hardly be said to be popular. He had not that commanding voice and skill to modify it; that tinsel of ornament in his diction, and degree of animation in his delivery, which captivate the multitude. But his sermons were so rich in thought, so full of good-sense, so well-arranged, so strong in argument, so sound in doctrine, that they uniformly made a good impression, and were highly appreciated by the more serious, intelligent, and devout of his hearers. At the different places where he was located in the ministry, he was highly esteemed both as a preacher and a pastor, and his labors there were crowned with good success.

He published in the periodicals of the day many well written Theological Essays of more than ordinary depth of thought and power of discrimination, which have been read by multitudes with pleasure and profit.

The last years of his life, while in health, were spent chiefly in preparing and circulating his *Scripture and Laconic Manuals*, which have had an extensive circulation, and met, in a high degree, the wants and approval of the Christian community, especially the first-named work. This is a book of uncommon merit, destined not only to aid the common people in the study of the Bible, but to be an assistant to Sabbath-school teachers and ministers of the gospel in their work for generations to come. Had he done nothing else but compile this work, his life would have been one of great usefulness to the world. In his intense application to the revision and publication of these works, the author broke down. A disease was induced which brought on a mental derangement of long continuance, and great severity, and which, after a short interval, in which he enjoy-