

is illustrious. He had not the advantages of the higher education and culture of the national university. In his day these institutions were closed to Nonconformists. He had not the advantage of a powerful patronage or a generous fortune. He started life with nothing, having no one to look to but God, no one to depend on but himself. In that sense he was a self-made man. In spite of these and other disadvantages, he rose to be the most popular preacher in the world, and lived to write his name deeper than any other in the annals of contemporary history. There is no part of the civilized world where his name is not known, no section of the English-speaking race but is more or less familiar with his writings. Those who will not read his profounder works read his lighter productions, and many who would not look at his sermons laugh and cry over "John Ploughman's Talks." He was a marvellous man. No doubt his genius was heaven-bestowed, but he had an indomitable will, a resolute purpose, an untiring energy; a zeal, a devotion, an enthusiasm, which made his genius a force almost irresistible. He worked with such a will as was almost super-human. He planned as under the very eye of God. He executed as if the salvation of the race depended on his fidelity. He lived, and worked, and preached, as for eternity. He was determined to know nothing among men but Christ and Him crucified; and he aimed at nothing but the salvation of souls. He had great gifts bestowed on him, and great grace given to him, but both gifts and graces were lovingly laid on God's altar, and he was willing to be all things to all men, if by any means he might save some. He was a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, but all the time intensely human, and thoroughly English. He feared no man, and envied no man. He was content to dwell among his own people, having no ambition and no desire but to see God glorified and man blessed. He will be best known and longest remembered as a preacher of unequalled eloquence and unprecedented power, but he was also a great writer. Witness his many works, from the "Treasury of David" to "The Sword and Trowel." He was also a great organizer; the Stockwell Orphanage, and the Pastor's College testify to this fact. His popularity was something wonderful. There was some magnetic charm about him which

drew men to him, and kept them as if spell-bound under his bewitching oratory. The extent of that popularity can only be realized by those who attended a service in the Tabernacle when he was in the pulpit; and to think, this popularity never once waned in forty years! What was the secret of his resistless power over men? No doubt his natural gifts had much to do with it; but his loyalty to Christ more. He walked with God on filial terms. He had a living faith in the living Christ. He believed in the Holy Ghost. He abounded in prayer. He knew that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one who believeth, because the Bible says so, and because it saved him. He was greatly beloved, greatly honored, greatly afflicted; and he will be greatly missed.

Oh may thy prophet mantle
On other prophets fall
May some unheard-of *Spurgeon*
Receive a heavenly call—
To gird on him thy armor,
To buckle on thy sword,
To step into the conflict,
And witness for thy Lord.

Kingston.

D. McCORMICK.

PULPIT MISFITS.

BY REV. H. E. BARNES, D.D.

These are not uncommon, even among us Congregationalists of simple garb. Good fits are numerous, perfect fits very few, but misfits how many! Hence, short and troubled pastorates. Hence, harrassed, disheartened, and finally dying churches. At some points I suppose we are all misfits. This is not always the pastor's fault. A congregation gives a call essentially unanimous to a man well recommended. He has become known as a preacher and a man, to some extent by those calling him. Within six months or a year a few begin to discover evidences of misfit. They lustily call attention to wrinkles and pinches that make them uncomfortable; and soon others say. "If Mr. and Mrs. X.Y.Z. are disatisfied, we must have made a mistake in our choice." After a time the minister that does not fit, and the people that are not fitted, both become uncomfortable; and when the situation can be endured no longer the pulpit is made vacant and the congregation left to dwindle until another man can be "tried on."