

devolved upon him. Father and son were natives of the County Down, Ireland, near Belfast. All the observable effects of his six years' residence in the north of Ireland was that of giving a crisp, firm accent to his distinctly uttered pure English diction. Mr. Briggs has a resonant voice and clear utterance. From childhood to the age of twenty-three, the great commercial seaport of Liverpool was his place of residence, a bare sojourn in which itself would be adapted to afford an education and a training of its own. But his was not merely the education of the street and market, and of social intercourse. His schools in boyhood and youth were of the very best kind. After a preparatory classical schooling, his education was principally commercial, as he was intended for business, in which his father was engaged before him, the practical details of which he had the chance of verifying for several years himself. He attended first the Mount Street Public School, and afterward the Collegiate Institute, of which the celebrated Dean Howson was the head master. To this he added all through life the companionship of the very best English authors (never having had any desire for the superficial and trashy), to which he gave his days and nights, "marking, learning, and inwardly digesting" their contents. This course has led to his being one of the most thoroughly versed in the British classics to be found among educated men. His habit of watchful listening and careful annotation of whatever was worth remembering, has furnished him with a vast store of ready apothegms and apposite illustrations to clench an argument, "to point a moral, or adorn a tale." A man thus informed and habituated, who was, besides, always careful of specific preparation for each recurring public engagement, could not be otherwise than the commanding platform speaker and lecturer, as also the impressive, feeling, and enduring preacher.

The godly teaching and example of a circumspect father, joined to the Sunday-school instruction in the notable Brunswick Wesleyan Chapel in Liverpool, issued in an undeniable conversion in boyhood, and in his entrance on labours of usefulness in early youth, in connection with the Prayer, Leaders', Exhorters', and Local Preachers' Plans, successively, by which he was prepared and led to exercise his gifts as a preacher in