

accurate information, and to present what he knew in a classical and forceful way. His range of reading was extensive, and his thoroughness in mastering the authors he read was prodigious. A writer so pregnant with matter in every line, displaying such unusual stores of information, is seldom met with. He is said not to have been impassioned in speaking, but fluent and voluble to a degree, with this evidence of oratory, that he attracted multitudes to hear him, over whom he demonstrated uncommon powers of persuasion.

He seems to have been a serious, conscientious minister, who laboured hard and met with a large amount of success as an evangelist and pastor. He had just that amount of talent, studiousness, industry, and power of influencing others, that, had he been content to run in the denominational rut which had been worn for him, and in which most others were content to travel, he would no doubt have risen to an eminent position in the body to which he belonged; but his was not the cautious, non-committal, reticent and law-abiding turn of mind which is necessary, along with at least fair abilities, to give a man position in almost any combination of men, especially in religious communities.

His characteristics of mind, according to his own analysis of his mental constitution, which estimate seems pretty well supported by facts, were the following: "A rationalising tendency, a practical tendency"—(his preaching was nearly altogether practical)—"and a reforming tendency." These attributes of his ministrations contributed to make his preaching lucid, attractive and immediately effective. His freedom in inquiry amounted almost to a scorn of all restraint. He knew no fear, and his powers of debate were extraordinary. A clergyman who knew him says he was unequalled as a debater. The former disposition of heart, and consciousness of the powers just indicated, made him ready to meet all comers in conflict, and he usually received the palm of victory.

A man of the character described would be the person to run an independent church of a sort of eclectic character, like the Church of the Pilgrims, or the Brooklyn Tabernacle; but such a man in a connexional organisation will soon be viewed with suspicion, and ere long be brought into collision with some one or other of his many colleagues. Such a minister, like a kicking horse, will work best alone; but put him in a team and there will be trouble, and the larger and more complicated the team, the worse it will be.