

four inches in length. The doctor sat at a table with his back to the portrait. The Yorkshire youth stood facing the picture.

"You are too long," remarked the doctor, "to be good for anything."

Instantly came the reply,

"Doctor, was he (pointing to the portrait) too long for anything?" His wit saved him.

He was finally accepted by the Conference, and at his own request put down for missionary work in India. The doctors, however, absolutely refused to pass him for a climate so dangerous. After spending six weeks, in the autumn of 1858, at Richmond College, (and this was all the college training he ever received), he was called out because of special demand for men, and appointed to a circuit. His recollections of kindness and inspirations received during that brief period have always been cherished by Mr. Watkinson among the best treasures of his life.

The way was now open for the development of the real man, and quickly did this son of humble toil grow in the recognition and esteem of the church he loved so well.

For the first year or so his chief business was the making of new sermons, and soon his reputation as a preacher was far above the ordinary. His mother, however, after reading one of his published sermons, was convinced that her son must be saved from conceit, and sent him the following criticism: "I have read your sermon many times, and am just beginning to get an inkling of its meaning." "As a matter of fact," says one who has read this early production, "this sermon, with slight touches of the editorial pen, would not to-day discredit the pages of *The Magazine*."

His circuits in succession have

been Stratford-on-Avon, Oldbury, Hinckley, Tipton, Wednesbury, Nottingham, London, Harrogate, and Manchester. During the years represented by these appointments he has been a most diligent student and a man of growing power. At present Mr. Watkinson is supreme among modern Methodist preachers. His texts, as a rule, are unusual, but in his hands they flash with new, but not fanciful or far-fetched meanings and applications. His language is expressive and beautiful, his illustrations exceedingly striking and appropriate, and by a very general consent he is recognized as one of the masters of the pulpit and platform of the present day. Wherever he goes, in Methodism or outside, he commands admiring audiences and an appreciation so genuine and enthusiastic as few men enjoy.

In addition to his wide, firm grasp of current affairs, his deep insight into the grand verities of Christianity, his acquaintance with the latest discoveries in science, the positions of philosophical investigation, the intellectual and moral drift of the century and his familiarity with the best literature of the time, Mr. Watkinson also possesses a genuine, wholesome humour which serves him well. This is with him a special and attractive gift, and with the finest judgment he uses this delightful, but perilous gift. It gleams and flashes in nearly every public effort, whether in lecture, sermon or address.

In 1883 Mr. Watkinson was elected to the Legal Hundred, and on the retirement of the venerable Dr. Gregory, in 1893, he was chosen as the Connexional Editor. By his distinct ability in his new sphere he has fully justified his appointment to this important office. He has transformed The