

and wielded his supreme power. It is doubtful whether the man has ever lived, who preached so much and so long, and maintained his freshness and his full hold on men to the last. Other preachers have been more profound: others have occasionally surpassed his best efforts, perhaps: but no other man has maintained so high an average level of the truest excellence for well-nigh forty years. The preaching of a Liddon or a Farrar may be more relished by the cultured classes, who desire rhetorical brilliancy and finish, but the common people heard no man so gladly as C. H. Spurgeon. The man has yet to live whose utterances shall reach so many ears as did his. The thousands that crowded the Tabernacle for thirty years were but a small portion of his audience. His sermons, published week by week, are said to have had a quarter of a million readers. They must have been full of power to win so many readers in all lands. Their truest greatness has been shown, however, in bringing multitudes to Christ, and in helping so many on the way to heaven. It is said that about ten thousand were converted under his preaching. It was the mainspring of all the multiplied activity which is centred around the Metropolitan Tabernacle. His sermons as read were the means of salvation to very many, and brought instruction, quickening, and comfort to hundreds of thousands. The quality and compass of the power which kept going forth as he proclaimed his messages week after week, may well awaken grateful wonder. While thousands mourn that his voice is stilled, all must rejoice that the echoing and re-echoing will never cease.

It might be presumption to attempt to analyze the *sources of his power*, yet reference may well be made to some of its elements.

He had great natural gifts. God chooses suitable agents for His grandest work. His natural powers were cultured. It is said that he was prepared for Cambridge when he began to preach. Ever after his mind was kept on the intensest strain. He was an omnivorous reader, and had the faculty of mastering a volume of the hardest reading at a sitting. He was familiar with his Hebrew and his Greek Bible. Let no one quote Mr. Spurgeon's case to excuse himself in an indolent indifference to the best preparation for his work. His voice was like a silver