

across Samuel's face. And what was Jesse to think, when the Lord had come by Samuel to choose a king, and there was a hitch, a mistake, or a breakdown somewhere; for all these seven had come and gone, and not one of them was chosen? Samuel, as I have described, turns round and says, "Are they all here?" And I fancy I hear Jesse saying, "Well, when I think of it, there is the youngest, a mere stripling, out there keeping sheep."

Samuel said, send for him; send for him, for we will not sit down until he comes. I was sure they were not all here, though I did not know your family. I knew God did not send me on a fool's errand, I knew I came to the right house." Listen to this description; The devil has not all the fine fellows. Here David comes in, and he is described for us; just as Eliab was described as David is. And they sent and brought him. Now, he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look at. The Lord has no objection to fine looks, the Lord has no objection to a fine physique, and no objection to your developing your physique, in all natural, healthful gymnastic exercises, as far as you please, and as far as you may. Oh, do not make the slightest mistake!—the Lord has no special delight in shuffling people who walk on the uppers of their boots to save the soles, as some people do. The Lord has no particular delight in round shoulders and broken wind—not he. David was ruddy, comely, and goodly to look upon. As his after-history shows, a splendid fellow, a darling fellow, with a keen eye in his head, and a big brain behind his eye, and a bursting heart inside his bosom. An all round man was David, who was shepherd, soldier and king in one lifetime, and played his part well in all three.

God never wastes Himself on nothings and nobodies. Of course, to Him be all the praise, to Him be all the glory; it is He who makes us what we are. Oh, will you humbly return from the pride and conceit that are killing you, and come to God, for He will build you up on a new plan altogether.

In came David; and the Spirit of God said to Samuel whenever his eyes lit on him, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." We do not profess to be thought-readers, and yet when we stand here, we preachers, or in places like this, and have no manuscripts to bury our heads in—and that is a great advantage—when we can look straight into the eyes of people, we think we see men who, if they are not on Christ's side they should be. I will give you a call to-night, in case you should start the objection that you have not yet got it. Man, you should be; you look

as if you belong to the "King's Own." There is a fine look—what you have in David—a free, open, manly, ingenuousness. No conceit, you know, no pride, no curling of the lip, with all his good looks and natural abilities; a gentleness, a nobleness, and a frankness; and on this high and holy day God anointed him, and sealed all these natural qualifications for his own, and put that extra plus to them all that comes out of His grace and His call and His anointing, sealing his youth.

"In life's gay morn, when sprightly youth.

In vital ardour glows,
And shines in all the fairest charms
That Beauty can disclose;

"Deep on thy soul, before its powers
Are yet by vice enslaved,
Be thy Redeemer's glorious name
And character engraved."

I have kept you too long, and will let you go with one other word. I forgot that we did not begin until half-past seven, and the hour begins to wax late for some.

How did David get it?

First of all, and very briefly, let me say, he got it because he was there to get it. When his father sent for him he was keeping sheep, very likely near the house, and when they went for the stripling he was faithful to his charge. His father said he was keeping the sheep, and when the messenger went, there he was. If we had been David—you remember how we did when we were young. I remember how I did. If you had sent me to keep sheep, half-an-hour afterwards where would I have been and the sheep too? I remember once being sent to keep crows out of a field—a very important bit of work in the country—and half-an hour afterwards there were multitudes of crows, but no boy!

Suppose somebody had come to my father and said, "I want to choose one of your family for my situation, and I had been considered likely, and that I had been sent for, expecting to find me, *faithful to little things*—namely, keeping crows away—but, lo, I was gone away hazel-nutting or bird-nesting, miles off! The point is this: Be faithful where you are; be faithful in keeping sheep; be faithful in the office; servant, be faithful down in the kitchen; wherever your sphere, be diligent; be your best in what you are at, though it should be as humble as keeping sheep, and it does not need a great deal of intellect for that—you don't need to be a member of the Browning Society, nor to have read the hundred best books, to keep sheep. But you do not need qualifications, that the darkest days when poor David was hunted amongst the hills, when he might or you will not manage. Now, my brother,