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THOMAS FORD CALDICOTT, D.D.

A suggestion has been made by the acute and judicious Andrew Fuller, that "those lives alone should be sketched for narration, which were distinguished by gifts, graces and usefulness." Judged by this standard, not a few biographies ought never to have been written; but even in its most rigid application, the rule would admit the subject of the present sketch. The "gifts, graces and usefulness" of "good old Dr. Caldicott," as the friends of his later years loved to call him, were acknowledged by all who knew his work and worth.

Thomas Ford Caldicott was born in Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, England, on the 21st of March, 1803. His father was for many years a deacon of the Baptist church in that village, and occasionally officiated as a lay preacher in the neighborhood. The boy was nurtured under Christian influences; and when only a lad of seventeen he was brought to a knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus, and publicly baptized on a profession of his faith. Shortly after uniting with the church, young Caldicott was appointed superintendent of the Sunday school. His gifts became so apparent to his brethren, that he was soon urged to exercise them in the Gospel ministry. His first sermon was preached at Sheepshead from Hosea xiii: 9,