

A MINISTER'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

BY THE REV. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN.

"Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.
—Ps. lxxvi. 10."



AM to speak to-night, as I announced, to young people. If I make a further reservation, first of all I speak to young men. Let me say, then, by way of introduction, that this verse is not read in your hearing because it is my text in the ordinary sense of the word. I am not going to examine the text.

I am not seeking to know what the Psalmist meant in the deeper reaches of his thought, neither am I going to ask you to consider what he told men about Christ's dealing with him after this invitation. The text is read in your hearing to-night as revealing a principle and as suggesting a purpose. I read the text first as revealing a principle. That principle is the principle of the value of personal testimony to the work of God. In another Psalm, the 107th, and the second verse, you find those words: "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy." Let the redeemed of the Lord say so; let him tell that he is delivered; let him announce the story of his deliverance; let him speak well of his Redeemer.

I am convinced that this was a part of the method of evangelistic work in the first years of the Christian Dispensation. God did not bestow upon all the members of the early Church gifts either for evangelism or prophecy or

teaching, but He did by the Holy Spirit call every Christian to the responsibility of witnessing and testimony. Every man and woman who shared in the work of Christ in those early days become forthtellers of the Divine Word as they had experienced it. They were not able in many cases—as men and women are not able still—to deal with the doctrine that underlies, but they were able and still are able to tell of the experience of their own lives. And, my brethren, I am convinced that there is nothing in this world more powerful than that one man should look into the face of another man and say to him: "I speak things I know. God has blessed me."

Among the great Methodist Churches hundreds—nay, I will go further, thousands—of men and women have been brought to God in their experience meetings, their love-feasts, their camp meetings, not by persuasive preaching, not by the eloquent plea of the evangelist—of course, these things have had their place—but by the simple telling by men and women to other men and women of what God has wrought in their own lives. My text suggests this. Says the Psalmist, "Come and hear, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul." And there is a verse in the Book of Revelation full of meaning, in the 12th chapter and the 11th verse, "They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony." It is spoken of the great hosts who have