

of a Person that they could love as well as fear.

Now, when I look at writers and scholarly men, and see how they have patched up their ideas of their unknowable God, and how they have analyzed God, I feel that if I had to preach those things in the pulpit I would throw sermon and book under the desk, and would never touch them again.

Look at Herbert Spencer's God. I do not revile Herbert Spencer; many of the stones that will shine out by and by in the completed temple of God will have come from his hands; but I think his writings should be taken as the disciples took the wheat, which they ate, *rubbing it in their hands*. In taking his philosophy you have to take a great deal of straw and chaff, as well as much wheat. As to his presentation of God, it is nothing. It is exactly what the annual joke of our Professor Snell, in Amherst College, was, when he said, "Gentlemen, you will perceive this invisible ball!"

Testing such men, and their reasonings, it will be found that they are like the Hiram that Solomon employed, who wrought in marble, and brass, and silver, and gold, and ivory. They are working, each in his own way, on that building of God which is being carried up through the ages. If you look at that which any one of them is doing by himself, it seems like poorness, indeed; but if you take a comprehensive view of that which they are all doing, you will be surprised at the richness of it.

#### SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES.

Now, there is nothing that will fill your soul like these presentations of God in the Old Testament and in the New; and do not separate the Old from the New when you are studying the character of God. You cannot get along without them both. Your Christ cannot at any other time be such a Christ, nor such a representation of God, as when you see the person of Jehovah as he is described in the Old Testament.

In preaching God, assume the truth of his existence; and preach so that your people shall see that he is a living Person, with whom they can hold converse.

#### CONTENTMENT AND FAITH.

The following true and touching incident was related by the Rev. Mr. Young, of Jedburg:

One bitter cold and stormy winter's day he was engaged visiting his parishioners, and among others called upon an old and feeble man who dwelt in a lonely cottage, living in the greatest of poverty. There was scarcely any fire burning upon the little hearth, while huge masses of snow had drifted through the roof and under the door. But there sat the old man, with the Bible lying opened upon his knees, to

all outward appearances the very picture of contentment, and seemingly unconscious of how cold and uncomfortable his habitation actually was.

"Well, John," questioned the minister, "what are you about to-day?"

The old man raised his bowed head, and for a moment gazed silently at his pastor, and then, with a heavenly smile beaming from and illuminating his pallid countenance, he replied: "Ah! sir, I am sitting under His shadow with great delight."

#### SECRET OF SUCCESS.

A correspondent of an American paper, speaking of the success of Rev. James Caughey, says:—

"Our solution is that Mr. Caughey, humbly speaking, converts souls because Mr. Caughey means to convert souls. That and nothing else is what Mr. Caughey aims at, prays for, works for, and please God, will have; and, pleasing God, does have. This is a most momentous point.

"There are preachers, by myriads and majorities, and deeply pious ones too, that never once in all their lives distinctly concentrated their purposes to the single point of converting men. Their efforts are to finish an eloquent sermon, to develop theological or biblical truth, to thrill esthetically an audience, to pour forth general religious emotion, to spread a popular fame, to gather crowds, to build a large church, etc. Verily these have often their reward, namely, success in their objects. But there is a lonesome preacher who does not object to all these; but, without or with them, by study, by closet, by pulpit, by pastoral work, some or all, he means to convert souls, and just so many as he can. When this is attained all the other success is well enough. Where this is not attained all the other success does not comfort him a penny; he goes off crestfallen and disappointed, indignant at the devil and himself. He will not stay there, where Satan has beaten him; but he will go where, please God, he can get some souls.