

anxious, and those small, keen, half-closed eyes with their pre-occupied, introspective look. Something about the man will strike you as out of the common and mark him as not one of the crowd. If you speak with him you will be impressed by his modesty and lack of self-assertion. He may not lavish himself upon you, but though you may be a very ordinary individual and an entire stranger he will treat you with respect and the utmost deference. Subsequent acquaintance will not detect any breach of good taste or Christian courtesy. Few men have a finer sense of the proprieties. Whether in praise or blame his words are always fitly spoken; his praise may be unstinted but it is never fulsome, and his blame—

I had such reverence for his blame.

As a preacher, Dr. Caven has always been popular with the more thoughtful. From the very beginning he has been an exegete, and his pulpit preparation has always been careful. He never darkened counsel with words without knowledge or offended his congregation with ragged inpromptu drivel. His sermons are models of sound exegesis, careful thought, correct style, and lofty spiritual tone. He analyses critically his selected text and sets forth its truths in severely chastened but forceful English, depending for effect, not on any legitimate excitation of the emotional nature by illustration or appeal, but on a clear presentation of the truth itself. This exegetical bent makes Dr. Caven a teacher rather than a preacher, an interpreter rather than a prophet. There is a difference. The one has truth mainly in view; the other, men. The exegete expounds another's message; the prophet has felt on his lips the touch of the sacramental coal, and his own message is as a fire shut up in his bones. The one is calm, informing, educative; the other is restless, passionate, appealing. In some few of the world's great preachers these two elements highly developed are found united, but the great majority incline either to the one or the other. Dr. Caven belongs to that large school whose sermons are exegetical rather than rhetorical. And for this reason Dr. Caven is usually more effective on the platform than in the pulpit. His speeches often stir with life and burn with passion, and the kindling enthusiasm shews that the audience feels the magnetic thrill. It is seldom, if ever, that a sermon produces a similar effect. Not because he depreciates preaching. No man holds higher views of the ministry, or appreciates more truly the power and beauty of