

REVIEWING the first volume of "Autobiography of Charles Haddon Spurgeon," Rev. Lyman Abbott writes in the *The Outlook* :—

"But greater than his reverential piety, his common sense, his humor, his unhesitating belief in his Calvinistic creed, his homely imagination, and his homiletic architectural skill was his profound faith in the Gospel as *good news*; a faith which made him always, in spite of his Calvinism some will say, because of his Calvinism others will say—and both will say truly—always a preacher of faith and hope and love, a preacher who inspired men to better lives and made righteousness seem both more real and more practicable. I heard him once, and only once. In the morning I went to Westminster Abbey, where Dean Stanley preached on the text, "I beseech you by the mercies of God;" his theme, that the motive which the New Testament brings to bear on men is the mercy, not the authority, nor the justice, nor the wrath, of God. And yet in the sermon there was but the barest reference, if indeed there was any at all, to the mercy of God toward a sinful race, shown in the life and death of Jesus Christ. In the evening I heard Spurgeon in his own Tabernacle. The congregation was a depressing, not an inspiring, one. The music was heavy and uninteresting. The sermon was at no point what could be called eloquent. The text was an enigmatical passage from Isaiah. But the impression I shall carry with me to my dying day was that of a man who had found life made real, noble, joyous, by his living faith in a living Christ, and who longed to impart to others the life which Christ had imparted to him. If sermons are to be judged by their life-giving qualities, it was the greater sermon of the two. Without the historical scholarship of Robert Hall, the suggestiveness of F. D. Maurice or F. W. Robertson, the originality of Henry Ward Beecher, or the spiritual culture of Philips Brooks, Charles H. Spurgeon possessed in common with them all that vision of God which makes every man who possesses it brave yet humble, and, when coupled with power to impart it to others, endows him with a power of speech greater than eloquence.