

notice. It is certainly a curiosity, and not wanting in worth. It is partially biographical and largely descriptive, oppressively labored and highly laudatory, characterised by considerable power and more pomp. The writer seems to have composed it on his literary stilts; and the reader might innocently suppose that he had pointed his *stylus*\* by rubbing it hard on the "*blarney stone*." However we must say that it is written in an eminently congenial and christian spirit. To verify in so far the foregoing remarks, we quote the first and last sentence of this rather unique introduction:—

"In perusing the present volume of sermons, the reader will no where find their author rising in a chilling fog of lugubrious cant, or simpering out inane formalism after the following mode: *Dearly beloved brethren, and my esteemed and respected friends: Permit me to invite your serious and solemn attention to that portion of celestial truth, which you will find recorded in the one hundred and seventy seventh verse of the sixty-ninth chapter of Saint Ichabod's sixteenth epistle to the Simpletons.*"

That is merely the introduction to the "Introduction." We suspect that some, even of those whose tastes are not over fastidious, will think that the caricature here attempted is too broad—that the burlesque is too blatant, and owing to lack of charity, may feel inclined to include the writer among the "Simpletons." Irony and its kindred instruments are exceedingly keen-edged, so that unless delicately and cunningly handled, they are apt to injure those that wield them.

In closing the "Introduction," he apostrophises Mr. Spurgeon in the following worshipful and inflated style:—

"Brother, all hail! This last drop of ink hastens into words, which may perchance meet your eye amidst the dust and exhausting strife incident to that great arena of your spiritual gladiatorship. Well, let them assure you of fraternal sympathy, at ten thousand altars in far-off climes. When the prospective issue of your glowing thoughts was here announced, orders for the same were promptly returned from every section of our republic; and soon you will be read, as your continued usefulness is fervently desired, in homes of affluence and cabins of industry, spread under the care of our common Father, from the Eastern Atlantic to the great Pacific of the West. May grace still bind thee in humble allegiance to the cross, and render thee yet more radiant, for the benefit of a dark and perishing world."

To the prayer in the last sentence, every christian reader will readily and cordially say, Amen. But the previous portion of the paragraph is a piece of fulsome flattery, and might be quoted as a specimen of benevolent and pious gasconade.

The author of the sermons before us, Mr. Spurgeon, is quite a young man, only 23 years of age, and minister of a Baptist Church in London, England. His pulpit ministrations attract large crowds in the metropolis and wherever he preaches, even in Scotland, we learn, where, of all places in the world, clap-trap and mere "sound and fury" are detested and loathed. His oratory is said to be very striking and commanding. This being the case, no one that reads his published discourses will wonder at his popularity. The volume before us, containing fifteen sermons, testifies abundantly that his mental powers are of a high order, and also that these

---

\* Writing instrument.