

## THOMAS COOPER

BY REV. E. BARRASS.



N interesting 12mo volume, being the autobiography of Thomas Cooper, is now before us. It is a charming book, one that no reader will willingly lay down until he has finished its perusal. Few men have had a more eventful career than the person now mentioned. For years he was a Chartist lecturer in England, and was confined in a dungeon because it was deemed unsafe to allow him to inflame the public mind. Alas! too, he became a sceptic, and for a long time he was in a worse state than Egyptian bondage. Happily he was restored to the faith, and became a "lecturer on Christianity," and for several years he has spent his time in delivering lectures throughout Great Britain and Ireland. In early life Mr. Cooper was a Methodist, and labored hard as a local preacher: he became convinced that it was his duty to be holy, and therefore sought and obtained this blessing. Hear his own words:—

"Very soon some one put into my hand 'Sigston's Life of William Bramwell.' It proved to be a spark that for a time lit my whole soul into a flame. I had heard members of the Society talk of holiness of heart, and of the 'blessing of sanctification,' and of 'a clean heart,' and of 'perfect love,' or the 'second blessing,' as some called it. I read again such of Wesley's sermons as touched on the nature of holiness; I found that Wesley taught 'sanctification,' but could never learn that Wesley himself professed to be sanctified. Fletcher's experience was fully described, and professed, and taught, as what all might experience. The experience of Hester Ann Rogers—her's is a well-known book to Wesleyans—also seemed very full and clear. I had already been reasoning with myself—'what I want is to be holy. I want to cease from sinning. The pardon of sin is really of imperfect value if I continue to sin. I shall need pardoning again. It is entire devotedness to God that I need; I ought to be devoted to him. It must be right to be so devoted, and it must be wrong to live without perfect obedience. Does he not ask me for it in His word? Does he not say, 'Be ye holy?' If he commands it, it must be possible to obey. God never mocks man; he would not command if it were not possible. But I am mocking God if I profess to be His, and yet have not given Him my whole heart.'

"I reasoned further, that as I had come out from the world and joined myself to God's people, I should be acting insincerely if I did not live fully to God. My plans of learning and study? Alas! they had all been suspended. And I reasoned that I must not resume them to kill my spirituality of mind. I must have this holiness of heart; all other things are despicable, compared to it. I had been taken out by a local preacher to begin to preach, and put on the plan as a prayer leader; and the earnestness of my prayers for holi-