

fifty things, but when I heard this word, 'Look' what a charming word it seemed to me. O, I looked until I could almost have looked my eyes away, and in heaven I will look on still in my joy unutterable."

Shortly after the happy day that fixed his choice, Mr Spurgeon was publicly immersed at Isleham, and as is well known he has remained a consistent member of the Baptist church ever since, though differing from many of his brethren in regard to matters of faith and practice, and surpassing them all in catholicity.

Mr. Spurgeon never went to college and has been heard frequently to congratulate himself that he had been spared the ordeal, not that he sets small value on theological training and careful study—the best proof of which is to be found in the fact that he has done more himself than perhaps any other man for ministerial education. But his own case was clearly exceptional. He was what may be called a "born preacher" from the first day he opened his mouth in public it was foreseen that he already possessed all the educational training that he needed. He preached his first sermon when only sixteen in a cottage in the village of Taversham, near Cambridge. His success was so great crowds came to hear the boy in round jacket and turn-down collar who now began to conduct evening services in the villages around Cambridge and Waterbeach. In 1852 he was installed pastor at Waterbeach. Soon after this a gentleman from London was so impressed with his eloquence he secured for him an invitation to supply a vacant congregation in the great metropolis. The experiment, as Spurgeon accounted it, succeeded, he was unanimously called to the pastorate of the church, which was soon filled to overflowing. Every sermon he preached added to his fame and to the crowds who went to hear him, until at length it was resolved to build a place of worship suited to the phenomenal preacher. The result was the erection of the Metropolitan Tabernacle opened for worship in 1861 at a cost of \$155,000 seated for 5,500, but capable of holding between six and seven thousand persons.

We need say nothing more about Mr. Spurgeon's power as a preacher to-day than that his bow still retains its strength. Take him, all in all, as an earnest, faithful and

popular preacher he is probably without an equal. Besides preaching and attending to the duties of his enormous congregation, Mr. Spurgeon has at least two other large enterprizes that occupy much of his time and evidence his splendid administrative powers—The Pastor's College, and the Stockwell Orphanage. The College commenced in his own house, with one student, but so successful was that one—Mr. Midhurst, many years pastor of the Baptist church at Portsmouth—Mr. Spurgeon sought out other students who met first in his house, then in the basement of the Tabernacle, until the liberality of friends furnished means for the erection of the new college building from which there have gone forth in less than ten years over 500 into the work of the ministry.

The Stockwell Orphanage originated in the gift of \$100,000 by Mrs. Hillyard, the widow of an Episcopal clergyman, placed at Mr. Spurgeon's disposal for this purpose. This princely gift was speedily followed by other large donations, and the erection of a tasteful group of buildings in which some five or six hundred children of both sexes are provided with "homes" much after the pattern of Mr. Quarrier's Orphan's Homes, of Scotland. Add to these the Colportage Association, and Mrs. Spurgeon's Book Fund to supply poor ministers with free gifts of valuable books, and Mr. Spurgeon's extensive literary labours, and some idea may be formed of the magnitude of the work that engrosses the time, and taxes the brains of Mr. and Mrs. Spurgeon.

### Sketches from Palestine.

BY REV. THOMAS CUMMING, TRURO.

#### JERUSALEM TO BETHLEHEM.

**B**ETHLEHEM is situated about six miles south from the City of Jerusalem. We rode this distance on a beautiful day in March in a comfortable carriage along the same way that had been trodden in other days by patriarchs, and prophets, and apostles, and kings, and nobles, and by pilgrims from many lands, and by Joseph and Mary, and by Him who, above all