

under the preaching of his father at about the age of seven years, and to have entered into conscious joy in the Lord at about the age of ten, in connection with camp-meeting services. It is interesting to note how on the same page, and in the portrayal of the same period in his life, we have the following characteristics, attributes which, by the sanctimonious, are supposed to be inconsistent with each other. It is told us that "he was remarkably constant in the path of obedience, both toward God and in his Church relations. His class-meeting was never neglected; and so marked was his conduct in the Sabbath-school that the superintendent requested him to address his youthful companions on the importance of yielding their hearts to the Saviour, and that before he was fifteen years of age." That is one phase. The other is,— "It must not be inferred that he was at all gloomy; on the contrary, he was one of the liveliest of boys, full of fun and cheerful gayety, always ready for a gambol with his brothers and neighbors." Yes! Youth is *still* youth although sanctified, for animal spirits are the gift of the same God who teaches us to pray without ceasing. What amusements are innocent is mainly a question of circumstances. Age, occupation, temperament of the individual, amount of time spent, amount of energy invested, tendency to vicious associations, influence on the participator's conscience, and spiritual enjoyments, these are questions at which Christian common sense must look when deciding in each case of this much discussed question.

From that time onward, until 1845, we find him the earnest Christian worker, in the Sabbath-school and otherwise; and in the early part of that year he becomes one of a band of young men, whose self-imposed duties were the maintenance of religious services for the good of the sailors of the port of Philadelphia, where he then resided. In the latter end of the same year he was licensed as an exhorter, and in the middle of 1846 received his commission to preach, and in a few months afterwards was sent to his first Circuit at the age of seventeen years. Alfred had been a diligent student in the best schools within his reach, but was denied the privilege of a University education. Without "college," behold the stripling go forth to his great life-work, and that in a region where graduates, in considerable proportion, occupy the pulpits of most of the churches. It may not be amiss in these days, when the B.A. and B.D. is so much prized or coveted, to insert the following from his biographer, himself a man of academic title:—"A more liberal education, prosecuted at greater length, would probably have rendered him different, in some respects, from what he was as a man and a preacher; but it is extremely doubtful if it could have rendered him more intense in his personal and ministerial influence. In the cry for scholars we are too apt to forget that it is not so much ideas as their application; not so much thinkers as actors—men of deeds—that the great world needs. A man to move and mould the people must be a man of positive convictions, be the circle of his knowledge never so small, rather than a critical investigator." (Page 112.)

His mother's advice to him on starting for his circuit was,— "My son, if you would be supremely happy or extremely useful in your work, you must be an entirely sanctified servant of Jesus." In love with that advice, we find him