

conflict or friction between others. Missionaries knew him well as a peacemaker; and there were occasions when his peace-making efforts were directed at men in higher position than they. It is interesting to find in his *Private Journal* an account of his success in healing a breach between Lord Shaftesbury and the Duke of Marlborough, which had arisen upon the question of parliamentary tactics as to bringing forward the question of the Bible in Indian schools, in 1860.

Lord Chichester, in a letter written after Venn's death, wrote of the ability he displayed when on deputation to a Minister of State:—

"During more than thirty years I was in the constant habit of going with such deputations to the heads of different public departments, and have always come away impressed with the fact that whatever weight was due to the deputations, and whatever impression made upon the Queen's Minister, was mainly owing to the clear, intelligent, and business-like statements of our honoured Secretary. I know that this was the opinion of several of the Ministers with whom I conversed upon the subject afterwards."

And in another paper, Lord Chichester gives a pleasant glimpse of Venn's home life at Highbury, before he moved to East Sheen, where he died:—

"Among the friends I used to meet at Highbury were—the present Lord Teignmouth, Sir J. and Lady Stephen, the Trevellyans, E. Bickersteth, Baptist Noel, Charles Hodgson, &c., &c., besides some of the most interesting of our missionaries, students from Islington, Bishop Crowther and his family, and other African Christians.

"H. Venn had a wonderful talent for drawing out a missionary, both at his own table and in the more august presence of the C.M.S. Committee. He did this, not by leading questions, but by saying, 'Now, Mr. —, what have you to tell us?' Then, if the witness hung fire, he was prompted by 'You have seen so and so, now tell us about this.' The process always answered. I was once dining with him at Highbury, when the party consisted of four German students from Islington, and one German missionary. The conversation began by a discussion upon a corn-mill which Prince Albert was to send as a present to the chiefs of Abeokuta. H. Venn and I had been to several shops, and the engineers recommended a handmill with steel grinders, instead of stones, because it was supposed that the Natives would never learn to dress mill-stones. H. V. asked one of these young Germans whether he could teach them, if he went to that country. 'Oh yes,' he said, 'I have dressed many myself. My father was a miller at our town.' It appeared afterwards that four out of the five had either dressed mill-stones or seen them dressed."

Venn held one ecclesiastical office. He was a Prebendary of St. Paul's, having been appointed by Bishop Blomfield. He valued the distinction, as giving him an official right to be present at the ordinations of missionaries. The emolument attached to it was £2 a year, and the one duty was to preach on every alternate St. Thomas's Day. Venn's journal of that day in 1849 gives a

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