

PROEM

the sanctuary," usually aimed at the adult mind, and the memorizing of Scripture, often incomprehensible. To him, however, the supreme desire to be a worthy follower of Jesus and eventually to become a preacher, was simply "the natural way of living."

When a boy in his teens, just out of the backwoods, in the early sixties, battling in a rising town with the disadvantages of poverty, ill-health and loneliness in a struggle to gain an education, he listened to a lecture given in the Court House by a medical man, supposed to be an infidel, for he was thinking the thoughts of new science, rarely went to church, and talked evolution! His subject was, "Everything an Arc of Infinity." Along with the general idea of the grandeur of his theme which treated of the infinitely little as an essential part of the infinitely great, one expression stands out vivid after all these years, "Every time a schoolboy flings a pebble into the air he moves the sidereal system, or the whole Copernican theory is a lie." At the close of the lecture a clergyman arose to move a vote of thanks. He made it clear that he did so because asked to perform a function, and then sailed in to criticize, arguing that as the infinite is not made up of little pieces, you cannot have an arc cut out of the indivisible, and so forth.

The criticism did not obscure to the boy the splendid conceptions of the lecturer, nor blind him to the fact that we could only make use of finite tools, finite language, to express our peering into the infinite vast beyond us. He began at once to wonder why all those magnificent conceptions of cosmic phenomena could not be made to harmonize with the methods of God in revelation and in Christian experience. The thought