

Church History Senior S '9

Now another great leader in American revivals who should be mentioned is Charles G. Finney, who was born in 1792 and died in 1875. It is thrilling to read Finney's life. You may not agree with all the theological points which he presents, you may find some of them with which you can heartily disagree, you doubtless will, but you cannot but be impressed with the great earnest sincerity of the man, a man who was trained not as a theologian but as a lawyer and possibly part of the weakness of his work came from that fact but Finney as a young lawyer reached the point where he found it absolutely necessary to turn his attention to something much more important than law and it's interesting to read how he used to have the Bible in his offices with the books of good literature, he liked to have it there, it marked his office as a respectable place where the Bible would be well in evidence and he would pick it up and read some literature from it and think nothing of it but when his conscience began to be quickened and his heart began to be stirred he found that he was reading the Bible and then speedily putting it out of sight when somebody came into the office and he found that--he was afraid that people would think that he was reading the Bible and that he was impressed with the difference in his attitude. I think that it is an interesting difference that you will observe in people that when they are simply indifferent they will not give near the signs of excitement over trying to hide^{it} that they will after their conscience is becoming pricked. Well, Finney read the Bible, studied it and decided that the Lord had a claim upon him, that he could never have eternal life except through acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour and with a simply understanding of the Bible but with a profound legal training he set out to present the claims of Christ to the people of his day and as you read of the way in which that man went out and in the most utterly fearless way presented the declarations of the Word of God and of the thousands, including many of the leaders of New York life who came to Christ through his preaching. eventually he became president of Oberlin College and at Oberlin College the story is told of Finney that at one time they had a tremendous drought there and it hadn't rained for