# John Cennick, Hymn-Writer and Evangelist

## By The REV. DR. FRANK BAKER

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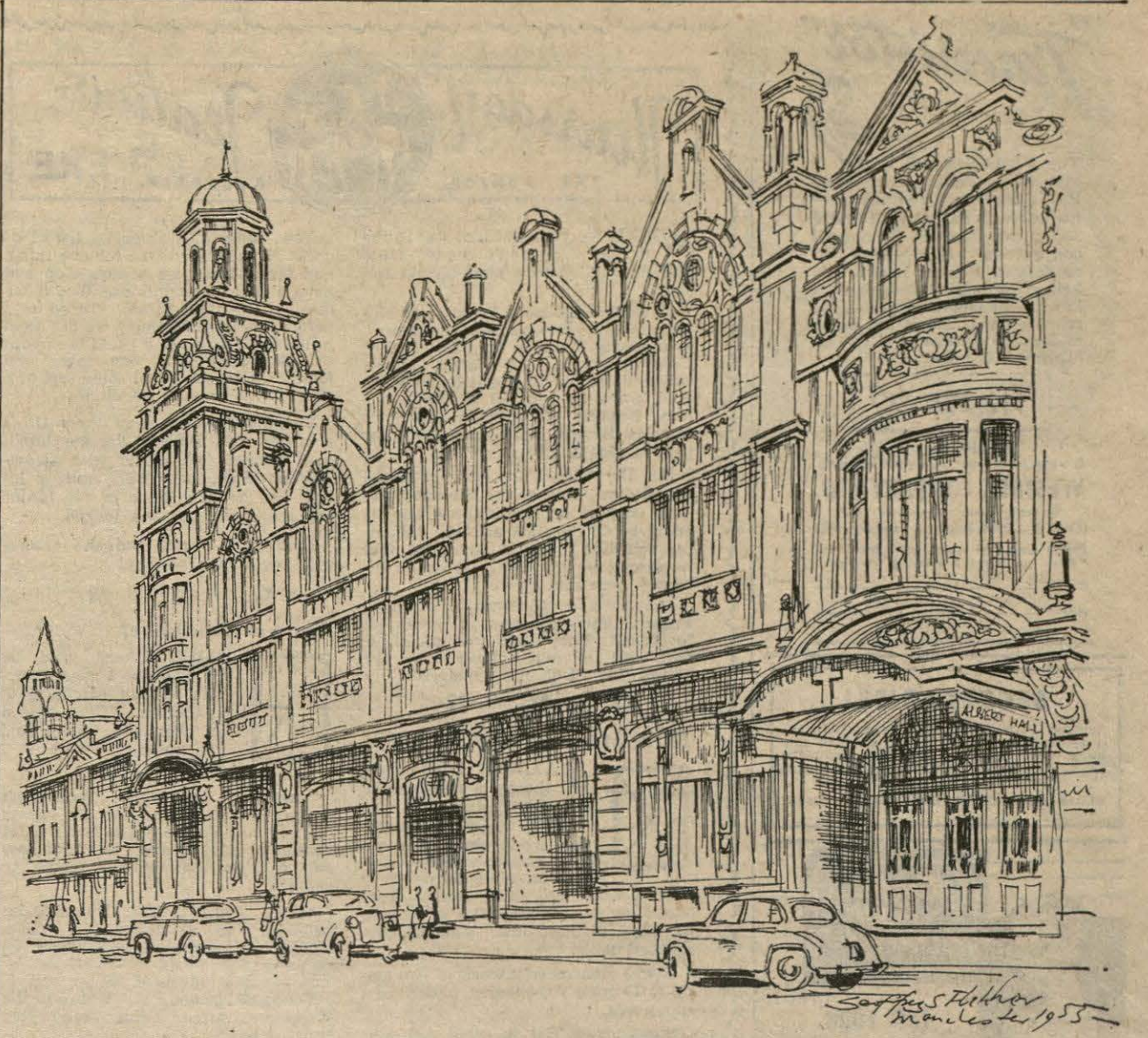

THE Albert Hall in Peter Street, Manchester, where the Conference will meet from July 4-15, as seen by Geoffrey S. Fletcher. The building is of Belgian renaissance style carried out in terra cotta, and stands almost opposite the Free Trade Hall, newly-restored, and for more than forty years has maintained and continued the work done in that building by the Rev. Samuel F. Collier who, for twenty-one years, preached to what was claimed as the largest regular congregation in the country. In continuing that tradition, of course, the Albert Hall ministers have embarked on their own characteristic adventures in evangelism and the latest of these included last winter's series of meetings, "Saturday Night at the Albert." This year extensive work of renewal and redecoration has been carried out at the Hall.

# Michael Faraday, Scientist and Christian

## By Professor C. A. COULSON, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.

BIOGRAPHIES of famous scientists are "all the rage" nowadays. And there have been previous biographies of Michael Faraday. But this one is a not unwelcome arrival, for it speaks of its hero as a man, and with as little technical jargon as possible. Anyone who can read should be able to take up this little book by Professor Kendall of Edinburgh (**Michael Faraday,** Faber and Faber, 12s. 6d.); if he does not already know much about Faraday it will not be long before he begins to understand why, if the professional scientists of Britain were asked to name the two greatest in their tradition, they would all place Newton top of the list, and a very large number would place Faraday next.

Indeed, he was a remarkable man. He was either the first or among the first to liquefy certain gases, to isolate benzene, to make optical glass suitable for the lenses of telescopes and similar instruments, to devise stainless steel, to understand what happens in a battery when a current flows. Yet above all these stands out his work on electricity. He made the first electric motor and, almost single-handed, did for the nineteenth century something that was to revolutionise industry and affect even the pattern of home life: it was he who made possible the unbelievable experiments of our twentieth century.

Yet that was not his aim. He wanted to know nature's ways and to enjoy them. So Professor Kendall shows him jumping for sheer joy when an experiment goes nicely—thrilled to bits when someone else beats him to a result and writing in his daily record about one of his experiments, "capital." When he built his first quaint little electric dynamo to make electricity, and his first little motor to use it, he could have had very little idea of what they would lead to. Mr. Gladstone, when Chancellor of the Exchequer, once asked him: "But what's the good of it?" I think there must have been a twinkle in his eye when he replied: "Some day, Mr. Chancellor, you'll be able to tax it." His words were all too true. For in fact the electrical industry, almost wholly derived from Faraday's early work, is now one of our largest industries, and is likely to develop even more. Perhaps in some ways it would have been better if Faraday himself had taken more interest in the applications of his fundamental studies. As things turned out, it was almost fifty years before dynamos and motors became commercially available.

But his interest lay in his work. He was Director of the Royal Institution, and scientific adviser to Trinity House, the body responsible for our lighthouses. He instituted the annual Children's Lectures, now among the most famous of all lecture courses, and himself gave them no fewer than nineteen times! Withal he was a simple man, and a humble one. He refused a knighthood and the Presidency of the Royal Society. He sacrificed consultation fees to industry that at one time were bringing him in more than twenty times his salary at the Royal Institution—and all to enable him to do his research! And what researches! Before he had finished, his notebooks described the results of experiment number 16,041.

Herein lies the secret of his success—a brilliant, restless inquisitiveness that counts anything other than its search for truth as, by comparison, worthless. He was religious, but even that had to be carefully regulated. For when he went into his laboratory he forgot his faith, and when he entered his oratory he left behind his science. This will not do for us to-day, who cannot rest satisfied with less than a whole view of life. But at any rate we can salute a great man, and be glad for the breezy informal account which this book provides.

[Continued from column two]

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Perhaps no more fitting tribute could be paid to him in this bicentenary commemoration than to reprint the lines exactly as they stand on pages seventy-five and seventy-six of the first edition of his first publication:—

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*The* Manna *to our Spirits giv'n,*
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*Praise shall our Grateful Lips employ,*
*While Life and Plenty we enjoy;*
*Till worthy, we adore thy Name,*
*While banqueting with CHRIST, the LAMB.*

# Briefly . . .

**Going Into The Past,** by Dr. Gordon Copley (Phoenix House, 8s. 6d.), the latest volume in the "Excursions" Series for Young People, is a splendid book to place in the hands of intelligent boys and girls. It will encourage a genuine interest in field archæology, showing how it can have all the excitement of detective work. Beginning with the Stone Age, the author writes about the great Bronze Age, "the coming of the ploughman," the Iron Age, the Roman occupation; and the later development of our complex life. The final chapter, "What You Can Do," is full of practical, and stimulating, advice. A good index and numerous photographs add to the interest.

**Lincoln The Unknown,** by Dale Carnegie (World's Work, 3s. 6d.), Cedar Book No. 23, is a new edition of a famous biography in which the great American President is portrayed as a very human person.

A reader may be known by the heroines he cherishes. Most of us, at one time or another, have probably joined the Brotherhood of the Rose. Even if a little doubtful about the quality of the lady in question, it was well worth the doing for adventure's sake. Everyman's Library (J. M. Dent) have reissued Charles Kingsley's **Westward Ho!** at six shillings, with a new introduction by Dr. J. A. Williamson, which confirms the view many of us hold that, in spite of blemishes, here is a treasure store for boys of any age in every generation.

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