

EVANGELIST MOODY.

ONE OF THE GREAT STUDENTS OF HUMANITY.

Incidents of His Early Life and the Cause of His Successful and Remarkable Career—Buried Near the Scene of His Birth.

In the township of Northfield, Conn., is a small elevation known as "Round Top." It is the summit of a gradual rising slope, and is crowned with more than a score of sturdy old pines left from the forests of years ago. In the shade of these trees Dwight L. Moody played when a boy, and on the slope of the hill over which they keep silent sentinel the remains of the great evangelist have been given to the grave. It is a fitting resting-place for a lover of nature and one of the greatest students of humanity. The sighing of the mournful pines faintly echoes the grief of the world that knew him, and the plain, rugged beauty of the surrounding scenery are emblematic of the life and character of the man.

People who have listened to Mr. Moody or who have come within the influence of his personality have wondered why he seemed to affect them more than any other person that they had ever heard or seen before. To some small extent this was owing to what is usually called personal magnetism, but the secret of his power lay in the fact that he was one of the greatest students of humanity that the world has ever known; that he could feel, and did feel, as others felt; that he looked upon the practical side of things and used practical means to secure results. He did not fight the devil with snowballs of eloquence, or use soothing lotions upon his seared victims; he fought with fire, and applied the strongest antidotes. He possessed the skill of a general and the tact of a diplomat. He realized that practical work was as necessary as preaching. At one time when he was holding revival meetings in New York City, there was a great cry against the roof gardens. His position on the subject showed the lines of action which he pursued. He said, "We need more roof gardens, but they ought to be on the tops of churches. Every church ought to have a roof garden. Make them as attractive as the beer gardens. Sell lemonade and soft drinks there summer evenings. Have them open every evening. Have songs and sermons."

He was not a highly educated man, nor was he what the world would call eloquent. His power as a speaker lay in the fact that he spoke to his auditors in a manner and in words that they could understand. He was careful never to shoot over their heads, and always endeavored to be entertaining as well as interesting. On account of his plain manner of speaking he was accused on a certain occasion in Boston



DWIGHT L. MOODY.

of lowering the pulpit. This was his reply: "If lowering the pulpit means bringing them to the people I would to God I could! If I wanted to hit Boston you don't think I would mount my guns on Bunker Hill monument and fire into the air, do you?" He made a study of every one that he met. He worked upon humanity through itself. At one time when in Chicago he wished to secure some particular favor from Mr. Armour, who was always a close friend of his. Mr. Moody was always an early riser, but one evening he notified the hotel clerk that he wished to be called unusually early on the following morning. He explained that he wished to call upon Mr. Armour in the morning, and added: "He likes people who get around early." On another occasion when preaching in the slums of a large city he was delayed in leaving the hall till late in the evening. As he left the building a number of roughs were waiting to annoy him. He heard them say, "Here he comes!" and they prepared to jostle him from the sidewalk. He walked directly up to the ringleader, and with the greatest self-possession said: "My friend, won't you just help me on with this overcoat? I am not quite so active now as I was at your age, and some day, when you are as old as I am, I'll be glad to do you the same favor." The bully gracefully held the overcoat, and Mr. Moody, after thanking him, walked on unmolested. Such instances as these show

the wonderful tact that the man possessed in handling people.

Beginning His Work.

Mr. Moody began his work as an evangelist in Chicago. He was the teacher of a small Sunday school class, and he determined to reach the children of the slums and streets. He worked among them and used every means to attract them to the Sunday school. Sometimes he attracted them candy, and he had a pony with which he went about the city in search of boys. It is said that he would start out on a recruiting expedition on Sunday morning and return to his Sunday school-room with his pony loaded down with street gamins, and the last enlistments would be hanging on to the pony's tail as they marched along behind. During some of these early Chicago days Mr. Moody would sleep on the benches in the Y. M. C. A. rooms because he had no other place to go. In strange contrast to the many valuable oil paintings which adorn his late home are two plain photographs which occupy prominent places on the wall of his favorite room. One represents 14 ragged and dirty street urch-



MOODY IN A CHARACTERISTIC ATTITUDE.

ins; the other, 12 of the same group, clean and neatly dressed after they had been under Mr. Moody's instructions for a few weeks.

Mr. Moody will live in memory as one of the greatest, if not the greatest, evangelist of the nineteenth century. He spoke to millions of people, and thousands were brought within the folds of Christianity through his influence. The civilized world has read, and reads, his sermons, and Christendom sings the hymns which he and his fellow worker, Sankey, composed. He aided in the erection of dozens of Y. M. C. A. buildings. The Christian, but non-sectarian, schools at Mt. Hermon and Northfield, Conn., were founded and supported by Mr. Moody, and are now among the most flourishing educational institutions in this country. Hundreds of young men and women are educated there each year. The institutions are so endowed and provided for that the death of their founder will not impair their usefulness. He received large amounts of money, but always spent what he received for the advancement of Christianity as he believed right, and died a comparatively poor man. Mr. Moody was non-sectarian in every respect. He preached the broad doctrine of Christianity to all alike. He was born in a Unitarian home, but had full appreciation and toleration for every other man's belief.

Mr. Moody was a plain, every-day sort of man without any pretensions to the style and forms of the world. When not holding revivals he worked on his farm and delighted in the work. He arose every morning at 5 o'clock and rain or storm couldn't keep him indoors. He was always strong, rugged and active. He was a social man and a jolly companion. In his home life he was an ideal husband and father. He studied the Bible closely and was a great reader of newspapers and current literature. Although he appeared to speak off-hand, he gave great preparation to his sermons, and it is said that he has given as much as two years to the formation of one sermon. As a speaker he was plain, witty, sympathetic and enthusiastic. The legacy which he bequeathed to his family was the continuation of the work that he considered he had only begun.

A Careful Mother.



Teacher—What do you know of the microbe family?
Little Maudy—Please, ma'am, mamma has forbidden us to gossip about other people's family affairs.—Exchange.

A cynic is a busybody who meddles in the affairs of other people and neglects his own

A Georgia Literary Blowout.

From the the Whitsett Courier: The closing exercises of the Literary club were highly successful. Perfect order was preserved without the attendance of the town marshal, whose children were laid up with measles, from which we sincerely hope they will recover soon. There was high tumbling by a stranded circus performer, a wrestling match in which nobody was hurt, after which a delightful hot supper was served, consisting of more than we have space to mention. It was said that the sheriff overate himself and had fits, but the report is false, for we were personally present until daylight, and we positively assert that all went merry as a marriage bell.

Where He'd Go.

"Aren't you afraid the law will take us in hand for gambling?" said the timid man who had just been persuaded into making an election bet.
"Never mind," answered the confident politician. "Even if it does, you're all right. They wouldn't send you to jail for making that bet. They'd send you to the insane asylum."
—Washington Star.

A new rival to Niagara Falls is projected at Newfane, N. Y., where a 50-foot dam is to be erected, and a large number of factories are to be erected preliminary to making it, as its promoters say, the greatest manufacturing town in America operated by electricity.

No Longer a Competitor.

He—Don't you think that girl over there is beautiful?
She (coldly critical)—Oh, I don't know. Who is she?
He—Mrs. Nuter. Just been married.
She—Yes. I think she is—quite beautiful.—Detroit Free Press.

"Walter, it is with great solemnity that I affirm that you happen to be the greatest prevaricator I have ever met. Bring me a half-dozen more of those chickens that go to roast early. See?"
—Philadelphia Call.

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