

A Brief Biography

OF

W. H. H. MURRAY.

W. H. H. MURRAY was born in 1840 at Guilford, Connecticut. His earliest characteristic was love of books. He was born with a passion for knowledge. Before entering college and during his course he studied poetry and *belles-lettres* under Fitz-Greene Halleck, the poet, with whom he was a great favorite.

Mr. Murray was graduated from Yale in the class of '62. While at Yale, he was, above all else, a reader of books. His memory was extraordinary, and he seemed incapable of forgetting. A book once read was his at call forever. The great object of all his reading and study was his native tongue. He mastered English literature from beginning to date. He read everything; he read critically, and he never forgot what he read.

After his graduation he studied theology at East Windsor and under private teachers. His first engagement as preacher was as assistant to Dr. Edward Hatfield, D. D., New York City. This engagement terminated with Dr. Hatfield's resignation. He then served at Washington, Litchfield Co., Conn.; Greenwich, Conn.; Meriden, Conn.; at Park Street Church, Boston, seven years; Music Hall, Independent Congregational Church, three years, — fifteen years in all of steady, continuous service. From preacher to a small country congregation, his abilities and laborious studentship lifted him in six years to the leading pulpit in his denomination. In Boston, then as now the most literary city in the country, — whose pulpits and platforms had been for fifty years their pride, where eloquence of the highest order was familiar to all, — he remained for ten years, preaching to larger audiences every Sunday than any other preacher in the land, and, with one exception, as a *pulpit orator*, without a peer.

At the close of these fifteen years of service he retired from