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## MOODY'S TRAINING AND METHODS.

### HIS GREAT THEME, "GOD IS LOVE."



VERY much has been said of the simplicity of Mr. Moody's religious belief, and how it has been enlarged and intensified through Sunday-school and missionary work. The subject deserves further remark. It is now more than 15 years since the evangelist became thoroughly devoted to the Christian cause. In the beginning his sermons and addresses to a large extent were composed of incidents occurring in his own experience, and though based upon a Scriptural text, the scenes in which he labored furnished a large part of the material for them. Ideas and suggestions were thus continually coming to his mind, and he adopted a plan of placing the notes of all his sermons in large envelopes, and as he gathered a new thought or an appropriate story he carefully made a note of it and placed it in the proper envelope. Frequently he heard a sermon that pleased him, and, when next he addressed his own people, he preached as much of the same sermon as he could remember, and added to it such suggestions as came to his own mind. Of this harmless plagiarism he made no secret, as he often confessed to clergymen that he had been preaching their sermons. Leading a most active life among people of two widely different classes—Christian workers like himself, and the suffering poor of Chicago—his daily experience furnished him with new stores of material which was carefully lodged in his memory or distributed in the envelopes. Any one who hears him preach will be impressed with the remarkable appropriateness of his stories. Until about six years ago Mr. Moody's training for his evangelical work had extended no further than this. He had read his Bible but he had not studied it. Its truths he