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**SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS,  
FOUNDER OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN  
ASSOCIATION.**

Amongst the Queen's birthday honors, none was more deservedly bestowed than the honor of knighthood which was conferred on the founder of the Young Men's Christian Association, Mr. George Williams.

The freedom of the City of London was also bestowed upon him at a meeting of the Court of Common Council of London, on May 17. The presentation was made at a

reception given to the Y.M.C.A. delegates by the Lord Mayor and Corporation at the Guildhall on Monday last, June 4.

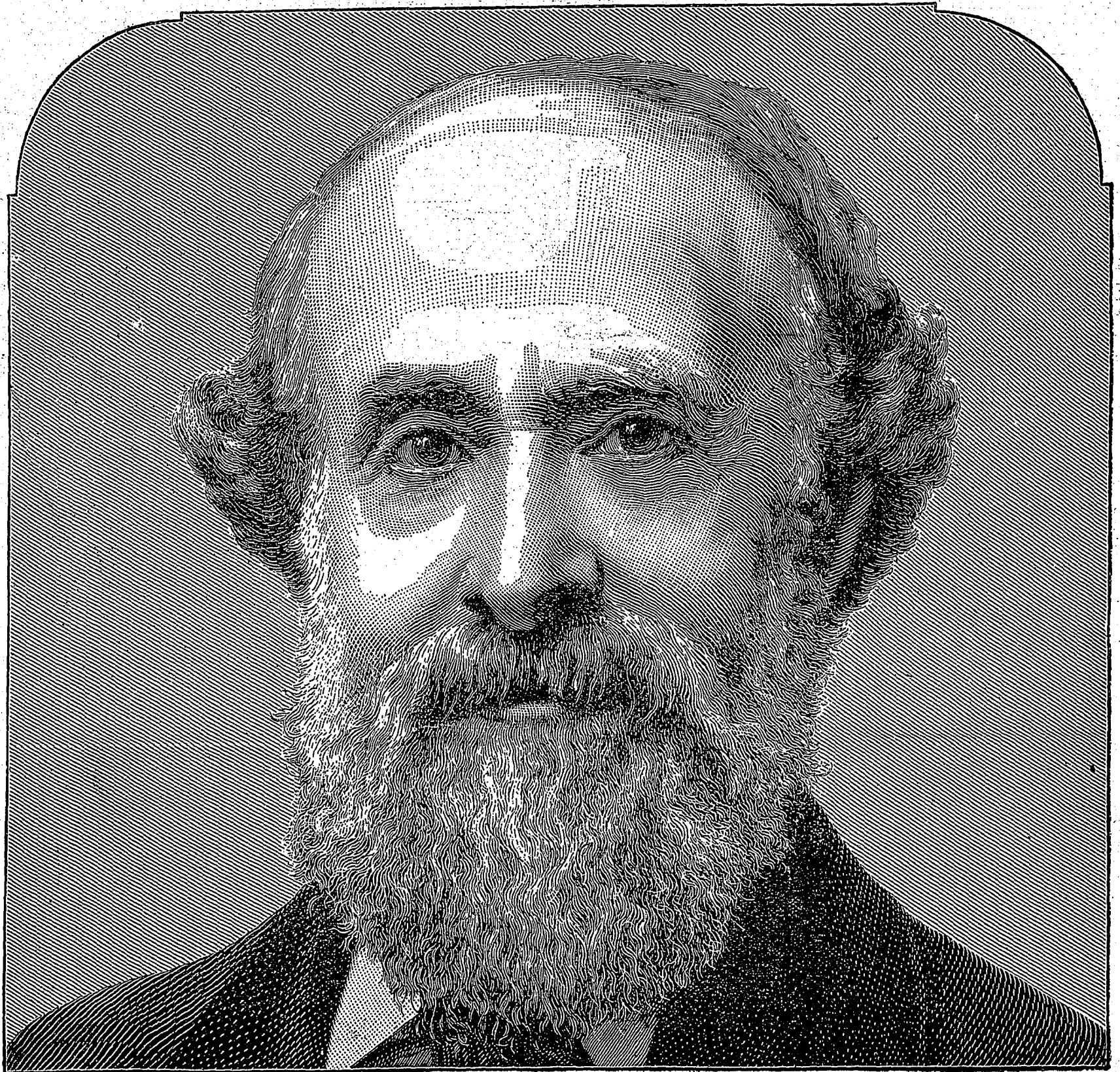
Sir George Williams was born at a farmhouse at Dulverton, Somerset, in October 1821. Educational advantages at the time were few and meagre, but he made good use of his opportunities; and best of all, while yet a mere youth, he was led to consecrate himself to the service of the Lord. He says that he knows not how this desire for spiritual things came to him, remarking,

'Somebody, I think, must have taken sufficient interest in me to pray for me.' At about this time he entered as an apprentice a small drapery establishment in Bridgwater, and soon made his influence felt, not only in the house but in the town, and through his instrumentality a considerable number of young men and women professed to receive the blessing of salvation.

In 1841 he entered the firm of Hitchcock and Rogers, St. Paul's Churchyard, Lon-

don, and proved such a remarkably able and intelligent business man that he soon became the manager of one of the largest departments in the house. Previous to this, his interest in the spiritual welfare of his fellow-assistants had led him to form a meeting for prayer and definite Bible study, which ultimately led to the formation of the Y.M.C.A.

Mr. Williams' progress in the firm of Hitchcock and Co. was rapid, and his position was strengthened by his marriage with



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