

Editorial.

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CHRIST CRUCIFIED.

The abounding blessing with which God is crowning the labours of Messrs. Moody and Sankey, in their own country, where it was thought they might not be so successful as in Great Britain, forces upon us the question wherein their strength lies? Mr. Moody is not eloquent, as the world judges of eloquence. He is not learned or polished in his style of address. He is not a "live lord." He is not a genius. And yet "the world has gone after him." Why is it?

We take the answer to be simply this:—Mr. Moody "knows nothing among men but Christ and Him crucified." A writer in the *New York Independent* says of him,—“He has but little to say. He is not a teacher. He could not stay with people and train them. His theology is quite unintelligent. But Mr. Moody has two simple ideas: that men need to turn from their sins and that God loves them, and Mr. Moody loves people himself, and these things make him a preacher. So long as these things are prominent he cannot help doing men good.”

The only point to which we take exception in the foregoing criticism is that

it makes more, perhaps not intentionally, of Mr. Moody than of the truth he preaches. It is just here, however, that all attempts at analysis fail, for the agent and the instrument are so intimately related, and so powerfully affect each other in the conversion of a soul, that it is impossible to say how much is due to the one, and how much to the other. Mr. Moody's sermons might be delivered, word for word, and gesture for gesture, by any one of ten thousand preachers in the United States, and they would no longer be Mr. Moody's sermons, nor would they be followed by the same results as when preached by himself. But on the other hand, if nobody can be Moody but Moody, neither can any other truth save but saving truth, and that is to be found not in philosophical disquisitions upon the freedom of the will, or the transmission of human depravity, or even upon the latest theory of the Atonement, but in the simple testimony, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners," even the chief. And this it is that we must preach, always and everywhere, if we would be honoured of God to do His work.

The work of a Christian pastor indeed is multiform, and is important in every department of it. Evangelism proper is only one aspect of it. He must "feed the flock of God which He hath purchased