

WHAT MADE MOODY GREAT.

BY THE EDITOR.

MANY articles have been written seeking to account for Mr. Moody's wonderful career as an evangelist, and to discover the secret of his extraordinary success. Apparently he had not many of the attainments that are usually considered necessary in a public speaker, and yet few men were able so powerfully to move an audience. A brief glance at some of the more striking characteristics of this great Christian worker may be instructive and stimulating to those who are anxious to be useful in the Master's vineyard.

1. *He was thoroughly sincere.* The impression always made upon an audience was that he believed every word he uttered. Even unbelievers and scoffers never thought that Mr. Moody was a hypocrite. They might decline to believe what he preached, but they had no doubt that Mr. Moody himself believed it. One of his biographers says:

"The deepest root of his power was his burning faith. There were no doubts dimming and smothering his religious beliefs, but they flamed as fiery verities out of his soul. This faith filled him with blood-red earnestness and sent his message from the heart to the heart with great power." He had a spotless reputation, and was genuine through and through.

2. *He possessed a shrewd common sense* that was worth more to him than a university degree. He was able to read human nature, and knew how to approach men in order to reach the conscience. The same qualities which made him a successful salesman in the shoe store in Boston helped him wonderfully in his Christian work. If he had remained in business he would doubtless have become a merchant prince.

3. *He was a man of intense earnestness.* Whatever he undertook he threw his whole soul into it. Shortly after his conversion he rented four pews in the church which he attended, and undertook to keep them full of young men whom he had personally invited. The seats were never empty. When he asked if he might teach in the Sunday School, he was informed that he might if he would bring his own scholars. The next Sunday he brought into the School eighteen boys whom he had gathered up. The number grew until he rented an empty saloon building in a neglected part of Chicago, and started a mission.

In speaking at his funeral, Dr. A. T. Pierson said that "a conservative computation will show that Mr. Moody has reached a hundred million of his fellows in public address, not to mention those who have read his sermons reproduced by the press."

4. *His power of organization was remarkable.* In directing the zeal and

energies of others he was a general of the first order. For managing great religious assemblies, his equal has never been seen.

As monuments of his power of originating and organizing he has left behind him the Bible School at Chicago, and the schools at Northfield. Through these, being dead, he will still continue to speak.

5. *His tolerance was a marked feature of his character.* In regard to Biblical interpretation he was a conservative of the conservatives, yet he did not expect everybody to agree with him. The fact that a man differed with him in theology was in his opinion no bar whatever to Christian fellowship. This was illustrated in his invitation to Prof. Henry Drummond, and Prof. George Adam Smith to speak on the Northfield platform.

6. *He was an unselfish man.* He might have been a millionaire, but he did not seem to care for money except as a means of doing good. Cruel and unfounded

charges were often made that he accumulated large sums from his meetings, and from the sale of his hymn books, but nothing could have been further from the truth.

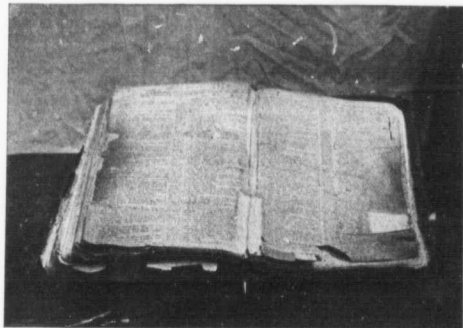
Young Men's Christian Association, and to churches. Moody never would touch a cent of the income.

7. *As a preacher he was enterprising.* He declared the old gospel with wonderful directness and power, and talked of scarcely anything else. His sermons show how interesting gospel truths can be made. They were brightened by telling incidents and pointed illustration, and in their delivery he was marvellously dramatic. He was the farthest removed from the sensational, and yet he sought to make all his services attractive, giving a prominent place to gospel song.

8. *His devotion to the Bible* is worthy of admiration and imitation. Mr. Moody was not an educated man, but he knew his Bible. He searched it through and through until he became saturated with its truths. The book which he used, marked and underlined, bears testimony to the fidelity with which he studied the Word. "His familiarity with it as a working instrument in evangelism was remarkable. He always knew where to find an apt verse, a striking illustration, a fitting text." There can be no such preparation for successful soul winning as a knowledge of the Bible.

9. *Above everything, he was a godly man.* It was impossible to hear him without being impressed with the fact that he was filled with the Spirit, and was loyal to God, and the truth as he understood it. Rev. Dr. Torrey, of the Chicago Bible Institute, says: "Time and again has the question been asked—What was the secret of his wonderful power? The question is easily answered. There were doubtless secondary things that contributed to it, but the great central secret of his power was the anointing of the Holy Ghost. It was simply another fulfilment by God of the promise that has been realized throughout the centuries of the church's history—'Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost shall come upon you.'"

We cannot all have Mr. Moody's ability to preach, to organize, and to reach men, but we may all like him to be fully consecrated to Christ, and influenced by the same Divine Spirit.



MR. MOODY'S BIBLE.

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Dr. Parkhurst gives the following testimony in reference to this: "I was travelling in Scotland and joined Mr. Moody just as he was leaving Glasgow for Ayr. At Ayr I learned from an eyewitness of his refusing £700 in one lump in Edinburgh. It was collected by the brethren, without his knowing it, and he was invited into a private room by the Committee and presented with it. He positively refused to touch it. The entreaties of the Committee were utterly unavailing. He told them about Major Whittle, who, he said, had got in debt trying to aid in a religious enterprise, and would become an evangelist as soon as he had paid that debt. Moody got the Committee to take the £700 and pay Whittle's debt with it."

Another instance: "John V. Farwell, of Chicago, William E. Dodge, and George H. Stuart, of Philadelphia, acted as a Committee to receive the funds from the copyright of the Moody and Sankey hymns, which amounted to more than \$1,000,000. They gave large sums to the

INTERESTING INCIDENTS IN MR. MOODY'S LIFE.

MOODY AND GLADSTONE.

Mr. Gladstone attended Mr. Moody's meetings in England, and was deeply impressed with the hunger of the people to hear the Gospel. Heartily grasping Mr. Moody's hand, he said to him, "I wish I had your body." Mr. Moody immediately replied, "I wish I had your head." Mr. Gladstone responded, "I mean I wish I had your lungs;" to which Mr. Moody again replied, "I wish I had your brains," and with hearty good wishes they parted.