



DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND LITERATURE.

VOLUME XXI., No. 23.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 5, 1886.

30 CTS. per An. Post-Paid.

MR. AND MRS. SPURGEON.

No living preacher has moved and had his being in such a bright blaze of world-wide publicity as the famous pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle, whose portrait, with that of Mrs. Spurgeon, we give. To attempt any adequate sketch of his unique career within the narrow limits of our space would be almost to insult the intelligence of our readers. Nor is it needful that we should essay such a hopeless task. Paying the penalty of greatness, Mr. Spurgeon's every public act, outside of the merest daily routine, has for many years been faithfully chronicled by the Press, sacred and secular alike. He is as much a public possession, and his history during later years has been as familiar to the reading community as that

man, and ordered his household according to the will of God. From that day to this their family has never wanted a man to stand before God in the service of the sanctuary." It is a most interesting and well-known fact, which may, however, be here put on record, that three generations of preaching Spurgeons are at this moment engaged in that service—Pastor Spurgeon's father, his brother, his two sons, and himself.

The Essex village of Kelvedon has the honor of being the birthplace of C. H. Spurgeon. After a childhood and boyhood of singular promise, we find him, at the age of fifteen or thereabouts, as usher in a school at Newmarket. There, and at that early age, he espoused and publicly professed the Baptist principles with which his ministry

him on that narrow way into which, by voice and printed page, he has allured so many thousands of his fellow-mortals. Evangelists, who would illustrate the simplicity of God's way of salvation, could not do better than make frequent use of this incident, fraught with such far-reaching issues in the religious history of this century.

The story of Mr. Spurgeon's first public discourse has often been told, but we may re-tell it briefly in his own words, spoken in 1873. In introducing the text, "Unto you therefore which believe He is precious," he said:—"I remember well that more than twenty-two years ago the first attempted sermon that I ever made was from this text. I had been asked to walk out to the village of Taverham, about four miles from Cam-

congregation assembled, and no one else there to speak of Jesus, though I was only sixteen years of age, as I found I was expected to preach, I did preach, and from the text I have just given." There are many to-day who would like to read that sermon, but the youthful preacher, in his round jacket and turn-down collar, had not then made a practical acquaintance with the stenographic fraternity, and so, we presume, his first sermon lives only in the memories of those who heard it, and in the wonderful ministry which has been its outcome.

After a short but markedly successful pastorate at Waterbeach, also near Cambridge, begun in his eighteenth year, Mr. Spurgeon was invited, after trial, to take a few months' supply at the Baptist Church,



REV. CHARLES H. SPURGEON AND MRS. SPURGEON.

of the august lady who sits on the throne of these realms.

To our younger readers, however, a few details of Mr. Spurgeon's early life and ministry will probably be acceptable and full of interest. He comes of a staunch, Puritan stock, and is the greatest of a long unbroken line of preachers, that bids fair to stretch down the vista of the future—as far, we may hope, as it does backward into the past. "The great grandfather of Pastor Spurgeon," says Mr. Stevenson, in his excellent sketch of the Pastor's "Life and Work," published recently, "was a pious

has been so conspicuously identified. The story of his conversion, which took place shortly before, is told with some fulness in Mr. Stevenson's book, in Mr. Spurgeon's own words. Suffice it to say that after six months' soul anxiety, as deep as that which is recorded of another famous Puritan—John Bunyan—he chanced one snowy Sunday to enter a Primitive Methodist Chapel in the town of Colchester. There he heard a sermon from the words, "Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth," which was instrumentally the messenger of peace to his soul, and started

bridge, where I then lived, to accompany a young man whom I supposed to be the preacher for the evening, and on the way I said to him I trusted God would bless him in his labors. "Oh dear," said he, "I never preached in my life; I never thought of doing such a thing. I was asked to walk with you, and I sincerely hope God will bless you in your preaching." "Nay," said I, "but I never preached, and I don't know that I could do anything of the sort." We walked together till we came to the place, my inmost soul being all in a trouble as to what would happen. When we found the

New Park-street, Southwark. This had been one of the most ancient, and formerly one of the most influential churches of that denomination in the metropolis; in the good providence of God it was destined to see days of prosperity and success before which its past would fade into insignificance, as the light of the pale moon vanishes at the rising of the sun. The letter of Mr. Spurgeon, in which he formally accepted the unanimous call to the pastorate after a three months' probation, appears in Mr. Stevenson's sketch, and a very remarkable production it is for a young man of scarce twenty