

THE REV. A. J. GORDON, D.D., of Boston, one of our editorial staff, died February 2d, at 12.5 A.M. Fuller notice of this great loss must be reserved for the next issue.

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THE WORLD-WIDE MINISTRY AND MISSION OF CHARLES H. SPURGEON.

BY THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF.

Some great events, like vast mountains which seem to defy the ordinary law of perspective, scarcely diminish in importance as they recede into the distance; they still loom up, in grand proportions, when years have passed.

The death of Charles Haddon Spurgeon is one of those momentous losses to the Church and the world which appear rather the more deplorable after the lapse of years. In fact, it took time to get the true measure of the meaning of this disaster. Like the giant redwoods of California, which are seen to best advantage after they have fallen and lie in colossal grandeur upon the ground, Spurgeon was best measured after he fell; and thus far the loss is, humanly speaking, absolutely uncompensated by any adequate results of good wrought through it, and the disaster seems, to our limited vision, wholly irreparable.

That God, being both wise and good, wisely meant this unto good, is to a true believer beyond dispute; but the goodness of this particular dealing and discipline is not yet apparent. In common with many others, we have asked ourselves, again and again, whether there be a single beneficial outcome which can be traced to this strange providence; but we can only fall back blindly upon the assurance that "all things work together for good," and remember our Lord's mysterious words, "What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."

Meanwhile, it may be well to look backward and scan this man's service to his generation, and learn under what a debt one consecrated life may lay the whole world.

I. *As a preacher of the Gospel, Charles H. Spurgeon had a world-wide mission and ministry.*

It would seem as though the pulpit of our day could ill spare him. Among all the modern preachers he stood, *facile princeps*, without superior, if not without rival, in the apostolic simplicity and unadulterated purity of the Gospel he preached. He felt that somehow and anyhow the message