

the position they hold, or for that of their children. They founded this nation in the cabin of the Mayflower, and on the stormy waters of Massachusetts. They laid down the great principle, which has made America a mighty nation, that majorities must govern. They laid the foundation of colleges in their poverty. They founded our great libraries by donations of books from their scanty store. It was through their influence that the school-house and church stood side by side; that all should have the Bible in their own language, and learning enough to read it. Washington bears witness, in letters still extant, that the clergy were a power on the part of the people in the war of the Revolution. They were commissaries in the army, officers and soldiers. They preached and prayed for the great cause, and made their scanty salaries still more scanty, that America might take her place among the nations of the earth.

LXIII.

REV. DR. WILLIAM ADAMS, OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

HIS EARLY CAREER. — MINISTRY IN NEW YORK. — MADISON AVENUE CHURCH.
— SECRET OF SUCCESS. — HIS STYLE OF PREACHING. — HIS POSITION. —
DR. ADAMS AS AN AUTHOR. — A FASHIONABLE UP-TOWN CHURCH.

DR. ADAMS is one of the marked men of New York. He is the patriarch of the Presbyterian pulpit. He has been in the settled ministry over thirty years, and is still in the full vigor of health and success. His church is in a fashionable locality. Every sitting in the house is rented, and probably no congregation in the land embraces so much wealth, so much business talent, so much social and political influence, so many active and prosperous merchants, so many energetic young Christians, — men whose names are known abroad as our most eminent bankers, princely merchants, large-hearted and generous givers. To be the pastor of such a people for thirty years, to keep abreast with this stirring age, overflowing a church when everything is evanescent and changing, to stand at his post for over a quarter of a century, and, without a question, lead the New York pulpit, indicates no common ability.

HIS EARLY CAREER.

He was born in Colchester, Conn. When an infant he was removed to Andover, Mass., his father becoming principal of the celebrated academy of that town. John Adams, the father of William, was one of the most celebrated teachers of his day. His pupils are among our most eminent clergymen and laymen. They are scattered over the missionary stations of the world; are among our most eminent Biblical scholars; they are presidents of colleges and professors of theological schools, and fill our most popular pulpits. Trained under his father, the protégé of Professor Stuart, he had eminent advantages for preparing himself for the great work of the ministry, to which he early consecrated all his talents. His boyhood was passed in the company of Judson, whose labors in Burmah are imperishable; Gordon Hall; Newell, who translated the word of God in Mahratta; Winslow and Spaulding, who did the same work in Tamul; Thurston and Bingham of the Sandwich Islands; Goodell in Armenia; Temple and King in Greece; Byington and Kingsley among the Choctaws; Bridgman in China; Schaufler among the Hebrews in Palestine, and Perkins in Syria. When a boy, the first dollar William donated was a gift to the missionary cause. He settled in Brighton, near Boston, when the evangelical cause was weak, and his ministry was at once attended with marked success. He was one of a company of young ministers who met once a week in Dr. Beecher's study in Boston for improvement; and Dr. Adams is only too glad to acknowledge the great benefit he derived

from those interviews with this eloquent man, who took so kindly to the younger members of the profession.

MINISTRY IN NEW YORK.

The climate of New England being too severe for the health of Mrs. Adams, Dr. Adams was induced to try a winter in New York, for the double purpose of getting the benefit of the climate and the skill of an eminent physician. Without the thought of remaining in New York, Dr. Adams took rooms in Park Place, then a fashionable locality, but quite up town. The wealthy of New York lived in that neighborhood. From Broadway to Greenwich, and up as far as Chambers, the solid men of the city had their homes. Grace Church was below Trinity. The Old Brick Church was almost out of the reach of the down-town population. Trinity was the centre of fashion. The Old North Church was filled with the Dutch aristocracy. Potts was in fashionable upper New York, on Duane Street. Maccauly preached to his wealthy congregation on Murray Street. Edward Everett had dedicated the first Unitarian Church on Chambers Street. Mason was far in the upper part of the city, on Bleecker Street. Dr. Matthews's church, above Bleecker, was in the ultra fashionable location of Washington Square. A ministry of thirty-three years can mark great changes in churches and people. Most of the church edifices have passed away; the ministry have gone — most of them to the house appointed for all living. Of the early associates of his pastoral life in New York, few remain to exchange Christian salutations.

Before Dr. Adams received a call in New York, he

resigned his connection with his church in Brighton, and was dismissed. A call was extended to him from the Broome Street Church, which he accepted. He was then twenty-seven years of age. The church was very much run down; but his ministry was successful, and for eighteen years he remained pastor. He had no ambition for an up-town location, and the steps taken to build the imposing edifice in which he now preaches did not originate with himself. The Broome Street Church contained an unusual number of earnest and successful men. The Pearl Street Church was in a feeble condition, and it was proposed to unite that with the Broome Street Church, and place over the united enterprise the pastor of the Pearl Street congregation. This plan being satisfactory to all parties, and leaving the lower part of the city well supplied, Dr. Adams consented, with a portion of his flock, to go farther up town.

MADISON AVENUE CHURCH.

Trade, like a flood, had driven families from lower New York. A loud demand was made for a place of worship in the upper part of the city. The little band that went out from Broome Street were not wealthy. They were gifted, ardent, and devoted. They left all their church property with the congregation down town. A most desirable location was secured on Madison Avenue, and on it was reared a church not exceeded in elegance, comfort, and capacity by any in the city. The edifice is of stone, and the tall steeple is of the same material to the vane. It cost one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, every dollar of which

was paid by voluntary contributions, and not a dollar of debt remains on the edifice. The magnificent ceiling would be pronounced gaudy, were it not toned down by the black walnut of the pews, pulpit, and organ. The new congregation gathered first in the chapel of the Union Theological Seminary, but soon removed to Hope Chapel, where worship was continued till the dedication of the new edifice in December, 1854. From the opening of this church, thirteen years ago, to the present time, it has been literally crowded. Such a congregation, regularly filling every seat and pew in the house, cannot be found in the city. Strangers are accommodated with seats on camp stools, double rows of which line the aisles. The passages between the pews in the galleries are filled at the ordinary services of the Sabbath. The congregation is a remarkable one. It embraces a great number of men — young men, men eminent in the professions and among the merchants, men of all parties and callings. It is a vigorous and live people. There is an elasticity in the very atmosphere of the place which all feel. The singing is of the first class. The men in the pews are at once recognized as our most noted merchants, bankers, and millionnaires, with active politicians of all parties.

SECRET OF SUCCESS.

This lies on the surface. Dr. Adams is a gentleman of taste and refinement. He is eminently social, genial, of warm affections and sympathies, a devoted friend, a laborious pastor, a learned and earnest preacher. In his dress, appearance, and manner, in the pulpit and out of it, he meets the popular idea of what a clergy-

man should be. He is prudent, conservative, and eminently wise in the management of his pastoral duties. He has strong common sense, and is a keen observer of passing events. He rides no hobbies, and all know that whatever subject he touches will be treated with decorum, ability, and eloquence. He possesses the gift, not common, of putting himself in sympathy with his audience by a sort of electric bond, and he holds their closest attention when he addresses them. He is a man of extensive reading; he is familiar with every fresh work, and nothing seems to escape him. He is perfectly at home in all departments of general knowledge. Of the literature of the church — its biography, history, geography, hymnology — he is master. Coming on to the stage with the men who founded the great institutions, such as the Foreign Mission, the Bible and Tract Societies, he is familiar with all the thrilling incidents of men and matters which have marked the pathway of the church for half a century. His memory is a vast storehouse of anecdote, illustration, facts, and graphic occurrences, gathered from books, nature, and men. He has travelled all over the world, and with his eyes open. There is nothing startling or extravagant in his performances; he shrinks from display, and from being thought sensational. But there is a tender persuasiveness, the eloquence of quiet earnestness, that becomes a messenger from God to men, which captivates and leads to the cross.

HIS STYLE OF PREACHING.

Dr. Adams comes to his people each Sabbath as fresh as the day that he was installed. His sermons are scholarly, without pedantry. He recognizes the power of illustration. His metaphors are drawn largely from books, and in this lies much of his freshness. Every new book or review that is valuable is seized, and made tributary to the sermon. He uses selections as he would choice diamonds loaned to him. He labels them, and puts upon them the owner's name, to enhance their value. The names of Shakespeare and Dante, Milton and Macaulay, Scott and Thackeray, Butler and Bryant, with poets, philosophers, and inventors, are familiar to his congregation, and contribute to the interest of the discourse. Dr. Adams has never sought to be a platform speaker. The old New England custom of writing sermons in full, and reading them, he has followed through all the years of his pastoral life. He prepares with great care and labor, but is not confined to his notes in delivery. He dresses with great neatness and propriety, holding out what Sydney Smith calls the signals of his profession — "black and white." He comes in at a given hour from a side door near the pulpit, and ascends the desk. He does not make it a dressing-room. He has arrayed himself elsewhere. There is a vigorous freshness in the congregation that greets him. A house in which it is difficult to get seats is filled early. Few stragglers come in after the pastor has entered the desk. The services conducted by him are appropriate, impressive, and interesting. His people lie very near his heart, and there is a

tender beauty with which he bears their woes, wants, sorrows and joys to God.

HIS POSITION.

As a citizen in the home of his adoption no man ranks higher. Among scholars he is honored as a preacher of high literary and theological attainment. Among the churches, where he has so long maintained a preëminent rank, where his freedom from sectarianism and his earnest advocacy of every humane and beneficent cause are so well known, and his genial, brotherly spirit so highly prized, he is held in universal esteem. He has received the highest college honors. His denomination has conferred upon him every mark of confidence and esteem in its power to bestow. As Moderator of the General Assembly at Washington, it was the duty of Dr. Adams to address the President on a visit of that body to the Executive Mansion. His speech introducing the members, for beauty of thought and graceful elegance of manner could not have been excelled.

DR. ADAMS AS AN AUTHOR.

The published works of Dr. Adams are not numerous. He has spent his strength on his sermons, and given to his own people the rich, ripe thoughts of his mature life. He wove a grateful and beautiful wreath upon the grave of his beloved teacher and friend in his tribute to the memory of Professor Stuart. His work, entitled the "Three Gardens — Eden, Gethsemane, and Paradise," typifying apostasy, redemption, and heaven, is a graceful exposition of evangelical Christianity. His most popular and recent work, entitled "Thanksgiving,"

is just from the press. A New England man, loving the home of his youth, he has drawn some sketches of the homely, happy life that he enjoyed around the fireside of his mother, with a beauty and pathos seldom equalled. Nothing can be more beautiful than these two descriptions.

A FASHIONABLE UP-TOWN CHURCH.

For thirteen years Dr. Adams has preached to what is popularly called a fashionable up-town church. But it will be hard to find a more devoted and earnest set of workers than go out every Sunday from this sanctuary to do their Master's will. They touch and sustain every form of Christian work among all classes at home and abroad. It has been the custom to set off mission churches, and leave them to take care of themselves. One of the finest chapels in this city, and one of the most vigorous missions, has been built and sustained by this congregation. The church worshipping in the mission is a part of the Madison Avenue Church, controlled by the same session. Over five thousand dollars a year are expended to support this mission. Teachers from the first families in the congregation are the most devoted instructors in the school. The donations made by private individuals in this church to the cause of Christ in all portions of the world, to found colleges, build churches, and to relieve the destitution in great cities, are gigantic. No form of Christian labor in this city can be found in which the members of this church do not bear an active and leading part. Besides the regular support of worship, Dr. Adams's congregation has contributed to benevolent causes one hundred

thousand dollars. A wealthy up-town church this is, but rich also in good works. It is a reservoir from which proceed continually those streams that make glad the waste and barren places of the land. Dr. Adams has reached the period of sixty years, nearly forty of which he has spent in the active duties of the Christian ministry. His vigor and energy, his efficiency as a pastor, seem in no respect to be enfeebled. As an accomplished gentleman, a devoted friend and pastor, a persuasive and effective preacher, he has no rival. The great central idea of his preaching is the Cross. The great aim of the pastor is to exalt the Savior who died on Calvary for man, and lead sinners to trust in the merits of his death.

LXIV.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT AND THE NEW YORK HERALD.

MR. BENNETT'S EARLY LIFE. — EMBARKS FOR AMERICA. — HIS NEW YORK CAREER. — CAREER AS A JOURNALIST. — NEW YORK HERALD. — THE NEW HERALD BUILDING. — INSIDE VIEW. — THE COUNCIL. — MR. BENNETT AT HOME. — HIS FAMILY. — MR. BENNETT AND THE FRENCH MISSION. — PERSONAL APPEARANCE.

MR. BENNETT'S EARLY LIFE.

MR. BENNETT was born in the year 1800, at New Mill, Keith, in Banffshire, Scotland. He was reared under the shadow of Gordon Castle. His parents were Roman Catholics, and he was trained in their religion. Every Saturday night the family assembled to hear the Scriptures read, and to engage in worship according to the custom so touchingly described by Burns. An uncle, for whom Mr. Bennett was named, was a Presbyterian clergyman. James was kept at school till he was fifteen years of age. He then entered a Roman Catholic Seminary at Aberdeen, his parents intending him for the ministry. On the banks of the Dee he pursued his studies for three years. He then threw up his collegiate course, and abandoned his ecclesiastical career. He pursued the classics with great enthusiasm. Fifty