

Church History Senior S 9

two centuries. It's difficult for anyone in these years to even imagine the tremendous influence which was exerted by Dwight L. Moody. Moody was born in Vermont in a Unitarian town. His parents were Unitarians. There was no knowledge of the gospel there at all but Moody, born in 1837 in this Unitarian surrounding went down to Boston as a young man and got a job there in a shoe store and was brought into a Congregational church there in Boston. Someone there--his Sunday School teacher there felt the urgency of going to see the young man in the shoe store to present to him the claims of Christ, and presented them to him there in the shoe store and that young man gave his life entirely to the Lord. Then Moody went to Chicago and there in Chicago he became a very active and successful business man. He was busy all through the week and often made long trips away from Chicago but on Sunday he was very active in Christian work and soon he established a Sunday School for poor boys on the waterfront in Chicago and soon had hundreds of them there and always arranged his business trips to be back there on Sunday to bring Christian teaching to these poor boys, boys from rough backgrounds, many of whom were very difficult for most people to handle but Moody was so thoroughly determined to serve the Lord to the utmost that he gave the great amount of energy necessary to try to handle these boys, to arrange classes for them, to bring teaching to them, and eventually he decided that he should devote himself entirely to religious work. During the civil war he worked among the soldiers in the employ of the Christian commission and at the end of the war became president of the Young Men's Christian Association in Chicago. The Young Men's Christian Association was an organization founded in England among Christian young men, an organization which came to this country and which was advanced all through this country by the evangelistic campaigns of Moody. Everywhere he went he was raising money for Y. M. C. A.'s to be built and every here he went the Y. M. C. A.'s were centers of evangelistic enterprises and . It's impossible for anyone today to even imagine how as recently as fifty years ago the Y. M. C. A. the gospel was put first in all the activities of the organization,