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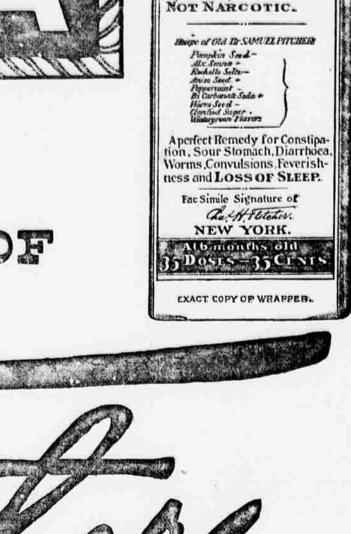
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Newell Dwight Hillis' Remarkable Success as Preacher and Orator.

BORN AND TRAINED IN THE WEST

Hardships of Early Life and Strug gles to Secure an Education-Varied Experiences in the Religious Field.

To grip the hand of Newell Dwight Hillis, to meet his alert, kindly eye, to talk he insisted. I told him that I talked on with him, to know him as he is, as he occasion gives himself unreservedly to his closer friends, is to go away convinced that he is not only a great man among men, but a genius. Those who have heard him preach have felt the intellectual, the spiritual man those who have met him in quiet discussions of books or of social conditions have seen the keenly alive, the broad thinking man; but those who know him best, who understand what life means to him, who know of his early struggles and of his later responsibilities, who are it touch with him as a charitable, loyal, warm-hearted friend, have seen the man himself and they know that he is greater than any quality or qualities which may

have brought him fame. To be called at 29 years of age to occupy a pulpit that is larger in tradition and it requirements than any other in this country, if not in the English-speaking world, is rare distinction. Dr. Hillis will step into the place built up by Henry Ward Beecher and added to by Lyman Abbott, with th authority of a man who has succeeded already far beyond the dreams of the country boy, who struggled hard for an education and who denied himself many comforts that his little library might gradually expand.

A Man of the West.

Dr. Hillis-the degree of D. D. was con ferred by Northwestern university in 1894 -is an Iowa man so far, that is, as birthplace and early education go; the son of a preacher; but after his 17th year his circle of work was broadened so materially as to make him a man of the west than of any single state. He was born of good old Puritan stock, in Magnolia, whither his parents had migrated, the father to devote a rugged life to spreading his own conception of education and religion. Thus the boy was brought up in a home which though plain and barren of luxuries, gave him the impetus to follow the scholar's life. He began life, real life, much earlier than 17, after teaching a country school and

"Yes," he said, in reply to a question, "it was a little hard at times, but it didn't last. The room was packed with men and two long. Oatmeal gets monotonous for a steady diet, you know,"

Organizing Sunday Schools.

It is with considerable quiet amusement a month. This would give him a double op. | head: portunity to gain experience in his chosen "Boys, I like to hear that child cry.

village to village in a covered buggy, stop-ping at each long enough to get the new in-"After the meeting, as I stood outside ping at each long enough to get the new institution fairly under way before driving the tavern to get a breath of pure air, my the sentence. on. From the middle west he continued into host came out and approached me awkwardly. men, sometimes identifying himself with thrusting a bill into my hand. the lowest grades of society. One incident

in particular he likes to recall: Preaching in a Miner's Saloon.

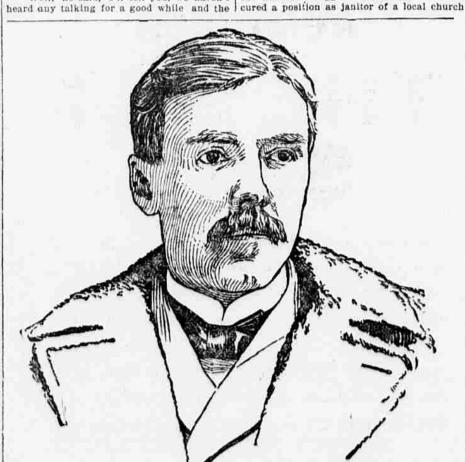
"In one mining settlement I had a strange experience. Probably some one of my fromer pupils had preceded me, for on en-\$80. Of course I could not, as they urged, keep it for myself, but it helped the work tering the village I was hailed by a beetlealong. From their looks I almost feared browed villain who announced himself as the mayor and tavern keeper. He asked me if I was the preacher. As I had not been ordained, I said no.

"'You do preach sometimes, don't you?

" 'Well,' he said, 'I'll tell you, we haven't

that they would shoot if I refused." A Janitor for College Fees. But though this work was congenial he could not relinquish the idea of an education, and on his return he entered Lake Forest university. Here occurred some of the hardest struggles of his life. He se-

boys say you've got to take it."



NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS. (His latest photograph.)

is usually the case nowadays. When but boys would like it if you'd preach to them.' managing to save a pitiful little sum, he experience, but I agreed. The tavern keeper one of his tasks should be to address the left home for Grinnell college and an educa- entertained me until the appointed hour, tion. How he strove and struggled and all when he led me to the bar room. Seats but starved, how he pinched and worried is had been made by laying planks across known to few; the full story may some day beer kegs. The room was dimly lighted be told—it may not. Dr. Hillis himself is with kerosene lamps, and the air was inclined to pass over this period of his life heavy with tobacco smoke and the odor of liquer. Cowboys had been sent to scour the near country and everybody had come. or three women were in the rear, one of whom held a caby.

"I talked as informally as I could, and apparently was holding their interest somewhat, when the baby began to cry. that he tells of hard knocks and old ex- mother was crowded too closely to be able periences. While at Grinnell, hanging on to to move at once, so I waited while she tried life and work by sheer nervous persistence, to soothe the child. The fact that I was he interested himself in organizing a Sun- compelled to wait seemed to enger one of day school. Though but a boy he showed the men, for he sprang up and demanded such marked aptitude, and his labors that the child be removed. Another anbrought such immediate success, that the awered him hotly, and in a moment the attention of a man of means was focused crowd was livided and the situation began upon him. An offer was made him to leave to get exciting. I had no idea of what I college and to drive through the west or- should do to quiet the disturbance, so ganizing Sunday schools, at a salary of \$60 said the only thing that came into my

field and to enable him to start a library, reminds me of my little niece at home. I'd give \$5 right now to hear her cry." "For some reason it seemed to touch

at a salary of \$1.50 a week, the appreciative years to go through the library.

Working for Two Dollars a Week. "I got down to bed-rock," he said, "down to where I had neither money nor "down to where I had neither money nor the prospect of earning any, and naturally was a little blue. One day, through an accidental meeting. I secured employment on a farm near the town. The agreement was that I should receive board, lodging and \$2 as it was, but when the time was up my employer refused to pay me." He paused, leading the possible of the prospect of earning any, and naturally was a little blue. One day, through an accidental meeting. I secured employment on a farm near the town. The agreement was that I should receive board, lodging and \$2 as it was, but when the time was up my employer refused to pay me." He paused, leading the post-time of the prospect of earning any, and naturally meets of the sandana handicerchief, and announced that she had come to be suddenly asked her, one evalually asked her, one ovalually asked her, one ovalually asked her, one ovalually aske

centrated upon this work. He drove from dental remark probably aroused memories while his eyes twinkled. "If there ever was a time in my life when I gave way to un- your philosophy.' But that a rabbit's foot christian thoughts-" But a smile closed

the mountains, mingling with all kinds of He started to speak, then hesitated, finally gleaned from his own statements to convince will put skeptics to thinking. one of the terrible earnestness of the man through his trials. His indomitable spirit, philosophy that is of great importance. The his nervous vigor, his practical optimism, "I was prompted to refuse, but he would all kept him at it with a persistence that not permit it. Others saw the act, and perhaps was partly outside of himself. they at once took up a collection of nearly

After college came the McCormick semipary in Chicago, where he received his theoogical training, and after that the great ife-work. He preached first at Peoria. His uccess there was so pronounced that he was . Evanston, a position in such close touch with Chicago church circles that his name grew rapidly. A few years more and David Swing died; then Dr. Hillis stepped into his place in Central church, Chicago. Many there were who said that he could not do it, that he was too young, too inexperienced, that it meant the decline of Chleago's most prominent church organization. But how he silenced his critics is a matter of too

recent history to call for comment. Sermons in Favor.

Dr. Hillis has published a number of books, compilations of sermons and addresses, and all have met with remarkable success. The more important of these, "A Man's Value to Society" and "The Investment of Influence," show even to the casual reader the secret of his success. His writing is like himself, keen, logical, forceful, and, better still, intensely human. Though not yet 40, he has seen more than falls to the lot of most older men. He has lived through hardships into success; and the hard treatment which might have made a cynic or a enough to keep other people from knowing failure of a smaller man has mellowed him and ripened him into strong, vital manhood. And there is in all his work a gentle, tolerant humor that often crystallizes into wit. Dr. Hillis is a very careful writer. He river sure. He could hear the splashing of gives minute attention to every detail of style, and his study of the masters shows in bank, so near was he, when rabbit-foot every line of his writing. Even when carried philosophy elbowed itself into the room. away by the flow of his own ideas he constructs each sentence with the precision that long practice has developed into in- berry, a bartender, a mixer of Jersey lightstinct. In delivering a sermon, however, he is not bound to the manuscript, and often he uses the written pages merely for an outline, breaking away from them into extended flights of eloquence. The history of Plymouth church is built

upon the lives of two great men. Dr. Hillis, the third to occupy its pulpit, will be watched with absorbing interest by the whole country. Those who know him best feel sure that the noblest efforts of an already noble life will be devoted, not only to continuing the work, but to carrying it into larger fields.

RABBIT-FOOT SCIENCE.

Philosophy of the Thing Expounded by Colonel Brannon.

"You wouldn't think that a rabbit's foot could knock out the combined medical knowledge of a big city, but it can," renarked Colonel M. M. Brannon of the Treasury department to a New York Sun correspondent. The colonel has long been egarded as authority on rabbit-foot science, an old newspaper man and has the honor of having been the first man to name Grover Cleveland for the presidency and of having sent him a copy of his paper printed on white satin with the corners tied with the feet of graveyard rabbits. these reasons what he has to say on the

subject will be found interesting. 'Yes, it is a fact," continued the colonel, and the rabbit's foot is here to stay. Why, I'd rather give up my job than my rabbit's foot. Some people believe in conjuring, in ghosts, in working spells, in bewitching and n the efficacy of horse chestnuts and Irish potatoes to cure and ward off certain all-

and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in fingers clasped. Den de chile mus' lay down. should walk in and serenely until the Gordian knot that had baffled the best skill | mawnin'.' In spite of his modesty enough can be of the science of medicine is something that

foot of the graveyard rabbit has all the utes. Then he went to sleep and did sleep powers of the foot of the ordinary rabbit until morning. He is now a well man, and multiplied to a phenomenal degree, each is dispensing family-disturber to all comers foot taking precedence as with the others. at the same old stand. Now, some will say The left forefoot of the graveyard rabbit is that it wasn't the rabbit's foot that cured the thing to make things hum. It derives its potency from the fact that a rabbit scratches on the grave with its left footcalled to the First Presbyterian church of All animals scratch with the left foot when they scratch with one foot at a time. Even chickens, when they begin to scratch, al

ways begin with the left foot. "Now, while the left forefoot of the rabbiis the ablest instrument of conjuring known to the followers of rabbit-foot science, there are certain conditions under which it may be procured that greatly enhance its virtues-for instance, if it is killed of a moonshiny night. This is because on such a night ghosts and spectres walk abroad and the atmosphere is laden with such general skeeriness that the foot of the rabbit absorbs the occult qualities of the hooden. If a graveyard rabbit be killed of a moonshiny night and with a 'sassafaak' stick cut in the dark of the moon with a knife that cost 45 cents, there is nothing that will not yield

to its powers. A few applications would

even cure chronic officeseekers. "There are many things our doctors know, and a few things they do not know. For instance, sometimes they know that they do not know what ails a patient, but they know that they do not know it. A fellow over in Jersey City came within an ace of dying of biccoughs and if it had not been for a rabbit's foot he would have passed over the the waters of the River Jordan ugainst the waved medical science aside and asserted itself. The fellow's name was John Carning, and he was taken with a fit of hic coughs while being shaved in a barber shop. He applied the usual simple remedies, but got no better. He went home, went to bed and sent for a physician. The man of medicine came, prescribed for him, collected \$2 and went home. Next day other physicians were summoned, then others and others, until thirteen of them were applying their remedies.

"They all looked wise, of course, and supernaturally solemn, and all made suggestions, like people will about running a newspaper. Then they held a consultation and they actually agreed that the patient was in a bad fix, and the patient thought so himself. Each doctor suggested a remedy and they concluded to try them all, if the poor fellow held out. They went on dosing and dosing from day to day, and Carberry

continued to lose flesh. "When the case got into the papers people from all over the country began to send man suggested that Mr. Carberry have his it. in that position until he became black in under his bed. Every remedy that came too magnanimous to wage war on women was tried, or very nearly all of them. There | and orphans. U. S. Grant.' The vacancy he lay between life and death for about was made and Miss Jackson was restored to seventy-two days. He only slept an hour or two at a time, when under the influence of drugs. He became so weak that the hic coughs made no noise-simply an unheaval of the chest. The doctors had long since given up hope. It was a wait for Blucher or death, and Blucher came. An old-time plantation mammy entered the room, with

Grant.' She took it to the department and presented it to the secretary, who indorsed it, 'There is no vacancy at present.' Much crestfallen she took the paper and returned home to consult the friend who had first advised her to see General Grant. He read the paper and the indersement and said to her: 'Take this to General Grant; it will be remedies, some of them by telegraph. One all right.' She took it to Grant and he read Without a word he went to his desk, friends stand him on his head and hold him took up a pen and wrote under the indorsement of the secretary: 'Then make a va-A woman wanted feathers burned | cancy. This government is too powerful and

Detroit Journal: Sometimes a man scems

the public service."

be in the hands of an inexorable fate. Algernon Fitzmourice leved Madeline assion; yet he did not come to call or

He'll go to sleep an' not wake up till

"Carberry didn't have time to try the

remedy, for the good old woman's simplicity

him for he didn't try it. To my mind it

proves the marvelous power of a remedy

GRANT'S GREAT HEART.

on a Woman.

and the benchman installed in her place.

"The young woman was in great distress,

for others were dependent on her for food

and raiment. She consulted a friend, who

advised her to go to the president and lay

her case before him. She shrank from the

trial and protested that General Grant had

have the time he would only take delight in

confirming the action of his subordinate, 'Go and see General Grant,' urged her

friend, and she did go and see him. The

president heard her patiently and in silence.

When she closed he quietly said: 'Go home

young lady, and take courage. You shall be

she went home and the following day a

messenger from the White House called at

her lodgings and left a note from the presi-

dent with an inclosure of something like

this: 'To the Secretary of the -. Dear Sir:

Restore Miss Jackson to the clerkship from

which she was dismissed last week. U. S.

"With a heart overflowing with gratitude

restored to your place."

superiority over doctor's medicine."

surred if it did not.

low's pockets for cigars before replying; for Madeline was the light of his home. (Here the proprietors of the magazine in which this story is running, offer a prize of \$250,000 to anybody who will guess how it all ends. It would be bad faith in us to anticipate.)

and earnestness tickled him, and he got into naturally fermented, nearly fifty years record as a delicious drink.

STORIES ABOUT STEWART.

The Silver Knight on the Stump and in Mexico. The following characteristic anecdotes ard related by the Washington Post of Senator

that will cure without taking it. That is Stewart of Nevada: where the rabbit's foot shows its majestic In 1896 Stewart was in great demand as a stumper. Late in October he was billed to speak in Kentucky. He arrived in Louisville on a Saturday afternoon and stopped at the Galt house. The spacious rotunda of Refused to Make Partisan Warfare that famous hostelry is a favorite gathering place on Sunday mornings of many of the At one of the clubs last night, relates the leading citizens of that town, where they exchange compliments and pass opinions on Vashington Post, a party of gentlemen was men, things and events, past, present and accessing that charming story told by that to be. On this particular Sunday morning ost excellent actor and thorough gentlefollowing Stewart's arrival the lobby was an, Stuart Robson, of General Grant's unusually crowded and the discussions were eply to the card asking if he had paid for his box at the theater on a certain occasion. most animated. On this particular occasion the venerable senator about 11 a. m. has es-Every one enjoyed it, and after the laugh was over one of the party narrated the foltablished himself with his stenographer and typewriter back of the cierk's desk and lowing anecdote of that extraordinary man, in the immediate rear of the lobby. After which may be history and may be romance. a time the crowd in the lobby were startled but all will agree that it ought to have ocby what was evidently the exordium of a "When General Grant was president stump speech, and a silver speech at that, ertain statesman in congress, intent on It was Stewart dictating to his stenographer political and official spoil, in nosing around his Kentucky speech. He had just finished n one of the departments found that the Indiana. He was walking the floor wholly daughter of James Jackson, who killed Ellsunconscious of the fact that he had an worth in Alexandria in 1861, was on the audience. The silver men in the rotunda roll as a clerk. The statesman had a hench- would applaud at his telling points, but man who desired just such a clerkship and what brought the house down-republicans, on his demand Miss Jackson was removed silver democrats, gold democrats and all-

was this gem, which he dictated as he

walked back and forth: "O, but they say.

Stewart is rich, and has got millions in-

vested in silver mines. Suppose he has?

What the hell has that got to do with it?"

The old fellow came out a few minutes

later, and everybody of all shades of po-

no time to waste on her, and that if he did litical opinion made much of him, though he never knew that his speech had been Another anecdote of Senator Stewart, related by another gentleman, was an account of his conference with President Diaz of Mexico some years ago. It seems that Stewart and a party of Americans were in Mexico to close negotiations for certain concessions touching some railroads and mines and other matters. Senator Stewart was the spokesman for the party. The Mexican president was supposed not to understand English and a most accomplished interpreter was present to translate into Spanish what the senator said. The conference took place in the Mexican cabinet room. The Mexican president was on one side of the table and the American senator on the other. The senator began a discussion of the concession that was sought and as he made his speech the interpreter turned it into Spanish. After a little time the senator got into the silver question up to his elbow. He let the concession slide and dipped into Lombard street, Wall street, gold gamblers, gold bonds and so on and so on for two mortal hours. The president was supposed not to understand English; but frequently, almost constant twitchings of his countenance belied the supposition After Stewart was exhausted he sank back into his chair. When the interpreter suggested that he would better say something

GIVE THE CHILDREN A DRINK

about the concession, "O hell," replied the

old fellow, "You konw as much about that

as I do. Go on and tell him about it in his

own lingo."



From the start he was successful His zeal 'For some reason it seemed to touch and fervor, his magnetic personality, his reset them, for they stopped almost immediately. markable gift of elequence, all were con- | It has since occurred to me that my acci-

It was a little outside the line of my but business-like committee stipulating that weekly prayer meeting. Somehow, by living on next to nothing and by accepting every odd job that offered, he managed not only to eke out a living, but to accumulate a library of 400 books. He finally was appointed assistant in the university library. and then it was that he set himself the task of reading at least partially every book on the shelves in the order of their alphabetical arrangement, beginning with Addison. It was here that he built up the habit of reading, which so largely accounts for his wide information; he learned to get out the gist of a book and its style and structure without taking time to read it through, for such time he did not have. It took him three

At Lake Forest he had one experience which at the time probably came closer to tragedy than his present laughing account would lead one to believe.