

Where Are the Great Preachers? Does New York Know Her Own Pulpits?

The Rev. Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis Facing Difficult Task in Succeeding to Pulpit of Beecher and Abbott

A Dealer in Plain Facts

Shocks Hearers in Array of Hun Atrocities and Arraignment of Wilson

This is the third in a series of Monday morning articles on the well known preachers of New York. They aim to answer the questions: "Where are the great preachers? Does New York know her own pulpits or is the tradition lost?"

The articles will not attempt to distinguish the great preachers or to determine the greatest among them. Their purpose is to present the preachers as they present themselves. Readers must form their own conclusions.

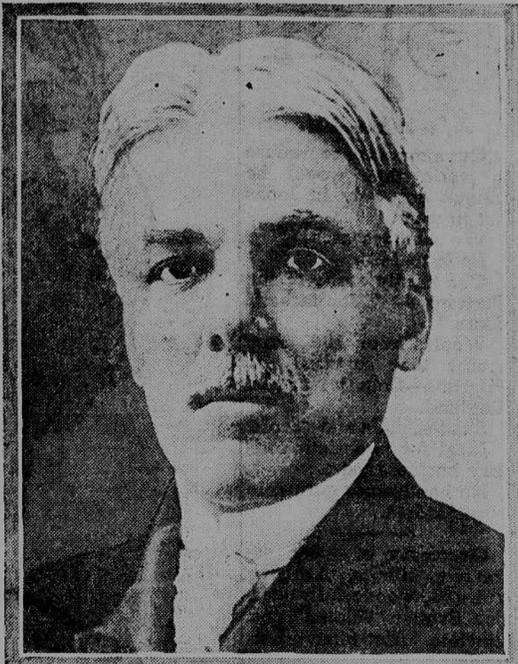
The two preceding articles have portrayed Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, preacher of the Old First Presbyterian Church, and Chaplain Herbert Shipman, rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest. Next Monday's article will tell of the Rev. William L. Sullivan, pastor of All Souls' Unitarian Church.

UNQUESTIONABLY, the best known pulpit in the city is that of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn. The historic associations of the church draw thousands of strangers every year, for it was from that pulpit that Henry Ward Beecher thundered his support of the campaign against slavery. To Brooklyn it always will be the Beecher pulpit, and it will not matter who succeeds to the Plymouth pastorate. Memory and tradition always will invite comparison with Beecher.

Sitting at the feet of Beecher was Lyman Abbott. He was called to supply the pulpit of his friend. From the beginning he warned his people that his relation as pastor would be but temporary. But he remained ten years and more. His service was in marked contrast to that of his predecessor. Yet it was brilliant, and its influence is incalculable.

Newell Dwight Hillis, the present

In Henry Ward Beecher's Pulpit



Newell Dwight Hillis, D. D.

pastor, who has just celebrated his twentieth anniversary, was called to succeed Lyman Abbott. Succeeding two such men as those who immediately preceded him, he faced one of the most difficult tasks that ever confronted a preacher.

Faces Other Difficulties

Add to his difficulties a change in the character of the neighborhood, a wholesale withdrawal from that vicinity of scores of the families that had supported the work of the great church, and you have a picture of the whole problem.

Yet Plymouth Church to-day, despite the tremendous demand for sustained brilliance in the pulpit and despite the

neighborhood changes, is one of the best attended churches in the entire city. The congregations, though largely composed of strangers, number hosts of regular attendants who represent a membership as loyal and constant as it can be found anywhere.

Proclaimed Own Humbleness

"If, therefore, there is anywhere in this wide land a noble boy who has done me the honor to read my books or sermons or to listen to my lecture, and who has come to cherish a secular ideal, let me say to him that I deplore my own influence, and that my deepest and latest thought is that there are no more of us than there are of missionaries and social settlers and neighborhood visitors whose shoe latches I am not worthy to stoop down and untie."

Those that were present at the service when this address was made declare that they had never witnessed any such self-abasement and had never known such an enthusiastic and loyal response to what was tantamount to a plea for toleration, sympathy and confidence. They declare he seemed greatest in that plea.

Soon the war obscured the parish issue. Soon Dr. Hillis took a place as a leader in patriotic endeavors. He gave up his own pulpit for a time to spread a gospel of Americanism and to work for the success of the Liberty loans. He went to France and studied conditions at first hand.

Returning to his pulpit one Sunday, he pointed to a mass of papers before him and said they were evidence in affidavit form of German atrocities. He gave utterance to the most scathing personal attack on the Kaiser and the Kaiser's forbears that had been heard in this country. He spoke so plainly that even Plymouth Church, accustomed to shocks, reacted visibly.

His address was reported in newspapers all over the country and repeated from pulpit and platform in many of the large cities.

From the time of his coming to Plymouth Dr. Hillis had little difficulty in holding large congregations. At first he alienated some of the old time members. But gradual plans, contributing material for ships, during my term as head of the national service section of the United States Shipping Board.

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"In the fall of 1917 our government laid upon me the task of speeding up the production of ships in order to meet the almost desperate conditions created by the German submarine piracy."

"Since then I have had no vacation. My jurisdiction covered all the shipyards of the country and thousands of men, and I was contributing material for ships. During my term as head of the national service section of the United States Shipping Board, I traveled a distance equal to twice around the world and spoke to over a million men in every section of the country, while at the same time directing the nation-wide work of a large organization."

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"A second reason for offering my resignation at this time lies much deeper than these personal considerations. The whole world is passing through a far-reaching revolution in thought, moral standards and institutional development."

Principle of God in Industry "In the realm of industrial relations I can see some rudimentary but honest effort being made to understand and apply the principle of the Kingdom of God in industry. Prolonged pressure has been brought to bear upon me from all classes of people and every section of the country to give my whole time and strength during the reconstruction period to helping interpret and apply the principles, ideals and spiritual energies of the Kingdom of God in the realm of everyday life. This I have decided to do."

Four Pitches in Voice Those that have followed the methods of the well-known public speakers say that Dr. Hillis has one of the most remarkable voices ever heard. It is certain that he has four distinct pitches to his voice. On one occasion he said he would depart from the usual sermon methods and constitute himself a judge, a prosecuting attorney, a counsel for the defense and a number of witnesses. It was the first time that a protean act of that kind had been attempted from the pulpit.

For nearly three hours he sustained this historic effort in an endeavor to defend the thesis of the text, "Ye must be born again." One after another his witnesses were called to the stand. He indicated his witnesses and the two lawyers by no other remark than an introduction. Then he sustained their personalities by his voice inflections. So well done was this that no one in the church had to ask the question, "Who is this talking now?"

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as that of the most distinguished citizen Brooklyn ever had produced. They lived to see the name of Beecher grow as a tradition in America, and to hear their pastor spoken of as one of the two greatest preachers of America. The name of Phillips Brooks was always linked with his. It seemed as if no one could determine which was the greater preacher.

Abbott Mirrored Beecher Lyman Abbott's ministry was in contrast, not only in pulpit methods but also in the calm that settled upon the parish. Dr. Abbott spent most of his time telling the people of Plymouth how really great was the Beecher tradition. His preaching was a remarkable example of self-effacement.

In the ministry of Dr. Hillis Plymouth Church has passed through another crisis. On public platforms, in print, and even in the civil courts, Dr. Hillis has been a target of attack. The sole of the little slave girl may have focussed attention upon Plymouth. It may have presented a dramatic situation the like of which was never known in a church before. But for human interest, for dramatic effect, Dr. Hillis's own statement following the airing of the charges in the matter of his land development scheme exceeded even that of the sale of the slave girl.

One Sunday Dr. Hillis began his address to the congregation with this statement: "During the last few months I have been the centre of a storm, with alternating blame and praise. I wish to meet this storm with face to the front."

Feared Ideas Misunderstood Then he proceeded to recount his connection with the land development plan and said: "For several years I have been increasingly disturbed by my influence upon some students and young admirers was far from ideal. I have feared lest I was biasing them toward the lecture platform, public life and prosperity, instead of toward obscure, gentle, tender, Christlike service."

"To them I owe this statement: That often I have loved my books more than the poor; I have loved position and honor and sometimes I have thought of my own interests, when every drop of blood and every ounce of my strength and every thought of my mind belonged to my schools, to the sick, the friendless, the poor and to the boys and girls with eager and hungry minds. Often I have taken honors conferred to me when I should have chosen solitude and dwelt apart and listened to the voice of God and tried to be a true prophet of God to you, my brethren. I have had a growing conviction that a minister has no right to make money, and does his best without it."

When utterances like this come from the pulpit every Sunday, when congregations confidently expect to be surprised or startled, it is almost certain that a very human leaning will take them to their pews with regularity.

Dr. Eaton Resigns Madison Avenue Church Pastorate Will Quit Post on April 30; to Devote Time Afterward to Reconstruction Work; in Present Post 10 Years

The Rev. Dr. Charles Aubrey Eaton, for more than ten years pastor of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church, tendered his resignation, to take effect on April 30, 1919, yesterday.

In the letter of resignation which Dr. Eaton read to his congregation he emphasized his need of rest after a trying year as head of the national service section of the United States Shipping Board.

Dr. Eaton's letter said in part: "I am tired. For the last twenty-five years I have given myself without stint to public service, for the most part under the difficult conditions which obtain in downtown sections of our great cities."

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great frequency. "Great Heart" is one of them. It is always the description of a man who has given his life in service of his fellow men. Johnny Appleseed was a "great heart"; so, too, was Abraham Lincoln; also he characterized in the same manner President Harper of the University of Chicago, Theodore Roosevelt, Francis of Assisi and Jesus Christ.

He denials lavishly in superlatives. His language is real. It produces many emotional displays. Perhaps the finest compliment ever paid to him was that of a young woman member of his parish. "His long sentences may be difficult to follow; his historical and literary allusions may be obscure; his voice may annoy—but always you take away with you at least one thought that brings comfort through the week."

Plymouth Church, under Dr. Hillis's leadership, as in Mr. Beecher's time, is a community centre, a veritable forum.

Dr. Hillis just now is devoting a large part of his time to a discussion of the problems of reconstruction. A few Sundays ago he returned his attention to the Paris conference. He started his hearers by this statement concerning resident Wilson: "The Almighty never made a man who was so great that he alone knows more than all other men put together. Even the Saviour of the world to His apostles plainly that He was dependent upon them for His victory and that they could do nothing without Him. One may be pardoned for doubting whether the President's gifts are so supreme that he did not need a little bit of counsel and advice from the leaders of the Senate, chosen by the American people to exercise one-half of the functions of the treaty-making power."

"But the President has the defects of his qualities. Never, in Princeton or Trenton or Washington, has he been able to work smoothly with his equals in ability or experience. There are two types of mind. There is the Lincoln type which, for his country, uses his opinions to prefer criticism and compliments; endorses savage critics like Stanton and Chase and Steward, and then towers in majesty over them. On the other hand, there is the type that loves isolation; that, when a Lusitania is sunk, cannot even advise with his Secretary of State or his Cabinet; is disturbed by external suggestions and is as sensitive to criticism as flowers to frost. You see that type in Thoreau's mind, a hermit mind; and in Thomas Carlyle, as well as in the President's own mind."

"But each man must grasp the handle of his own being and the people of his country as the Senate must do the best they can with the limitations of their leader."

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Henry M. Blossom, Writer of Musical Comedy Hits, Dead

Wrote Books and Lyrics for Many Victor Herbert Scores; Started as Reporter; Author of "Checkers"

Henry M. Blossom, novelist and librettist of numerous Broadway musical comedy successes, died yesterday afternoon in the Belmore Apartments, Broadway and Eighty-sixth Street. Blossom, who was fifty-two years old, was stricken three days ago with pneumonia.

Mrs. Blossom was with her husband when he died. The funeral, it was announced, probably will be held on Wednesday morning in the Campbell Funeral Church, at Sixty-sixth Street and Broadway, but complete plans for the services will not be announced until members of his family arrive here.

Blossom collaborated principally with Victor Herbert. He wrote the books and lyrics for "Mlle. Modiste," "The Red Mill," "The Slim Princess," "The Only Girl," "The Yankee Consul," "The Prima Donna" and "The Velvet Lady."

His father conducted a jewelry establishment in St. Louis, and for a time Blossom was associated with him. Later he became a newspaper reporter. The first product of his pen to attract attention was "Checkers," which was later dramatized. Others came other books, including "A Hard Luck Story" and "The Brother of Chuck McGinn."

Blossom was a member of the Lambs and "Players" clubs. "I was a dear, intimate friend in Harry Blossom," said Victor Herbert last night. "The American stage loses one of its most brilliant contributors."

Joseph Frey Dies Head of German Roman Catholic Federation of U. S.

Joseph Frey, of 15 East Tenth Street, president of the German Roman Catholic Central Federation of the United States, died of heart disease at his home yesterday morning. He was born in Germany on November 6, 1854, and came to this country with his parents when he was very young.

Mr. Frey was educated in parochial and public schools. He was a member of the Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, 107 Pitt Street, where on Wednesday morning a solemn requiem mass will be sung for the repose of his soul. He is survived by a widow and five children, Dr. Joseph L. Leander A. Maximilian Herbert, Elizabeth and Anna M. Frey.

IMPORTANT NOTICE Birth, Engagement, Marriage, Death and Memorial Notices may be telephoned to The Tribune any time up to midnight for insertion in the next day's paper. Just call

Beckman 3000 and send the notice as you wish it inserted. Bill for same will be mailed to you later. The notice will reach more than 100,000 readers daily.

BIRTHS EISLER—Mr. and Mrs. Nathan A. Eisler (Miriam Wallach), of 640 Riverside Drive, announce the birth of a daughter, March 19, 1919.

EPTER—Mr. and Mrs. William Epter, 941 St. John's av., Bronx, announce the birth of a son, March 20, 1919.

HARRIS—Mr. and Mrs. Simon D. Harris, of 1100 Park av., announce the birth of a daughter, Shirley Patricia, on Monday, March 17.

MINOT—To Lieutenant and Mrs. Selwyn Minot, on March 23, a daughter, June Blockwell Minot.

ROGERS—At 116 East 52d st., New York, Howard Elliott Rogers, son of Edith Elliott and Edmund Pendleton Rogers.

ENGAGEMENTS BILIK-HANCHAROW—Mrs. Sara Hancharow, of 2258 Prospect av., Bronx, announces the engagement of her daughter, Rose, to Irving Davis.

DAVIS-DAUMAN—Mr. and Mrs. J. Dautman, of 940 Fox st., New York City, announce the engagement of their daughter, Lillian, to Irving Davis.

DAVIS-LESSER—Mrs. Natalie Lesser, of 20 West 129th st., announces the engagement of her daughter, Lillian, to Max E. Davis, of Rochester, N. Y. Rochester papers please copy.

MARRIAGES ANDREWS-TUTTLE—At Grace Episcopal Church, New York City, by the Rev. Bishop Faulkner, on March 22, 1919, Lieutenant Thomas Harvey Skinner Andrews and Marie Brookings Tuttle.

COHEN-WEY—Mr. and Mrs. E. William Wey, 610 West 150th st., announce the marriage of their daughter, Sylvia, to Mr. Lawrence S. Cohen, on March 20, 1919.

LEVIN-GROLLMAN—Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Grollman, 1085 Morris av., announce the marriage of their daughter, Frances, to Mr. Alfred F. Levin, on Sunday, March 16.

DEATHS BAKER—Frances. Services to-morrow, 2 o'clock THE FUNERAL CHURCH (Frank Campbell's), 1970 Broadway.

Dr. Price, Dewey's Fleet Surgeon at Manila, Dies

Retired President of Naval Examining Board Succumbs at Seventy-one

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., March 23.—Dr. Abel Fitzwater Price, Admiral Dewey's fleet surgeon at the battle of Manila Bay, died to-day in a hospital here. He was seventy-one years old.

Born at Lawrenceville, Penn., Dr. Price was educated at Philadelphia public schools and the Medical College of the University of Pennsylvania, from which institution he was graduated in 1858. The same year he was commissioned assistant surgeon in the navy, and in 1871 became full surgeon. He received the rank of captain in 1899, and was president of the naval examining board from 1904 to 1909, when he retired.

He is survived by his widow, who was Miss Clara Wolston, of Philadelphia.

GEORGE T. DAVIS, JR. George T. Davis, Jr., of the supply company of the 105th Field Artillery, is reported dead of pneumonia at West Point on February 27. He was twenty-four years old. When the 105th Field Artillery returned to this country, he was transported America Mr. and Mrs. Davis went down the bay to greet the regiment, believing that their son was with them, and that they had returned home. Later they were notified of his death by a telegram from Washington.

EMIL C. BRAUN CHICAGO, March 23.—Emil C. Braun, who came to Chicago in 1893 as German official electrical engineering representative at the World's Columbian Exposition, died here to-day. He was several years he was chief engineer of St. Louis street railways. His wife is a daughter of Louis Willigh, for years of "Puck."

JAMES M'MANUS ONECO, Conn., March 23.—James M'Manus, labor union leader and Democratic politician, died this morning of heart disease. He was seventy years old and had frequently held town offices.

WARD DE SILVA OTISVILLE, N. Y., March 23.—Ward De Silva, a lawyer of Otisville, is dead of pneumonia. He was thirty-four years old and was admitted to the bar eleven years ago.

New Russian Magazine "Struggling Russia" is the name of the new weekly magazine issued by the Russian Information Bureau. According to its editor, A. J. Sack, "this magazine is a democratic Russia and will defend it against the red reaction of Bolshevism and the black reaction of Czarism." It is announced that the most prominent liberal and revolutionary leaders of Russia are contributors.

One of the leading articles in the first number is called "What is Bolshevism?" and its author is Otho B. Breshkovsky. "There is one hope for Russia," says the "Grandmother of the Russian Revolution," "and a very real one, and that is our peasantry." She says this class cannot be "bought" "the chaos brought about by Bolshevism."

DEATHS a. m. Solemn mass of requiem will be offered at the Church of Corpus Christi, 121st st., near Broadway, at 10:30 a. m. Interment Calvary. Automobile cortege.

DU BOIS—Sergeant Camille Du Bois, in France, beloved husband of the late Annie Conroy. Requiem mass for the happy repose of his soul on Tuesday, March 25, at St. Agnes's Church, East 43d st.

EGBERT—On Sunday, March 23, 1919, Harry Egbert, beloved husband of Edith Cooperwhite and eldest son of Professor James E. Egbert, in the 33d year of his age. Funeral services at his late residence, 635 Lenox av., Westfield, N. J., on Tuesday evening, March 25, at 8:15 o'clock. Train to Fort Liberty, at C. & N. E. N. Y. at 7 o'clock.

GOLDSTEIN—On Friday March 21, at Atlantic City, N. J., beloved wife of Emanuel Goldstein and daughter of Mrs. L. A. Hearin. Funeral Monday, 2 p. m., from 105 Lenox av., Richmond Hill, Long Island.

GEER—Suddenly, at 145 East 35th st., March 23, 1919, Gertrude, beloved wife of Robert W. Geer, and daughter of the late Robert W. and Gertrude Smith of Sharon, Conn. Funeral at Sharon, Tuesday, March 25, at 2 o'clock p. m.

GRIFFITH—Suddenly, in Brooklyn, on Saturday, March 23, 1919, Margaret Tillman Griffith, daughter of the late Walter S. and Gertrude Griffith, wife of the late William Hill Long Island.

KAPLAN—On Sunday, March 23, 1919, Harry Kaplan, aged 57 years. Funeral service on Monday, March 24, 1919, at 10 a. m. Kindly omit flowers. Interment private.

MAY—At White Plains, N. Y., on Sunday, March 23, Catherine Seiber, wife of the late Henry Rodgers May. Notice of funeral hereafter.

MURPHY—On March 22, Patrick, former resident of the Bronx and beloved husband of Margaret A. Murphy. Funeral from 425 61st st., Brooklyn, on Wednesday, 9:30 a. m. Mass of requiem at Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help at 10 a. m. Auto cortege to Perpetual Help at 10 a. m.

O'CONNOR—At her residence, 132 East 30th st., on Friday, March 21, 1919, Louise M. O'Connell, beloved wife of E. O'Connell. Funeral services and interment private.

PERKINS—On March 21, at Palm Beach, Fla., Caroline Erickson Perkins, widow of Gilman Hill Perkins, of Rochester, N. Y.

ROGERS—At 116 East 52d st., New York, Monday, March 17, 1919, at 4:30 p. m., in her 29th year, Edith Elliott Rogers, wife of Edmund Pendleton Rogers and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Elliott, 755 Park av., New York. Burial, Wednesday, 9:30 a. m., in the Jerome Avenue Church, York. Hyde-Park-on-Hudson, N. Y.

SCHERMEHORN—Suddenly, on March 20, 1919, Frederick Augustus Schermerhorn, son of Peter Augustus and Adeline E. Schermerhorn, aged 74 years. Funeral at Grace Church, Broadway and 19th st., Monday, March 24, at 10 a. m.

TOOLAN—On March 21, Peter A., beloved husband of Carrie (nee DeBorja) and son of Michael and Sarah P. DeBorja. Funeral services at his late residence, 152 Union Place, Bronx, at 9:30 a. m. Interment to Sacred Heart Church, Bridge Street, at 10:30 a. m. Solemn requiem mass will be offered for the repose of his soul. Interment St. Raymond's.

VAN DYNE—N. J., on Saturday, March 23, 1919, George E., husband of Elizabeth Kaiguel Van Dyne, in his 69th year. Funeral services will be held at his home, 191 North 7th st., Newark, N. J., on Monday, March 24, at 2:30 p. m. Interment in Woodlawn Cemetery, Philadelphia, Penn.

WAGSTAFF—On March 23, Cornelius Du Bois Wagstaff, son of the late Dr. Alfred Wagstaff and Sara P. Du Bois. Notice of funeral hereafter.

WELLS—Henry, son of the late Louis and Marie Weber, at 1066 Jefferson av., Brooklyn; born in Brooklyn in 1881; survived by son Henry, brother Frank, and sister Adeline L. Kramer; was a salesman of the American Woolen Company, New York. Interment Monday, private.

WELL—Antonia Horwitz, in her 71st year, beloved wife of Charles and Otto Horwitz and the late Louis Singer. Services Monday at 2:30 from her late residence, 874 Elmside Place.

In Case of Death Call "Columbus 8200" FRANK E. CAMPBELL "THE FUNERAL CHURCH" (Non-Sectarian) Broadway at 66th St. Downtown Office, 20 East 23d St., N. Y.

THE WOODLAWN CEMETERY Lots of 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210, 220, 230, 240, 250, 260, 270, 280, 290, 300, 310, 320, 330, 340, 350, 360, 370, 380, 390, 400, 410, 420, 430, 440, 450, 460, 470, 480, 490, 500, 510, 520, 530, 540, 550, 560, 570, 580, 590, 600, 610, 620, 630, 640, 650, 660, 670, 680, 690, 700, 710, 720, 730, 740, 750, 760, 770, 780, 790, 800, 810, 820, 830, 840, 850, 860, 870, 880, 890, 900, 910, 920, 930, 940, 950, 960, 970, 980, 990, 1000.



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