

their very number prevents the constant care and supervision to which boys and girls are accustomed in the home, but miss so sadly in the school.

## UNIQUE INSTITUTIONS AT NORTHFIELD, MASS.

**The House in Which Mr. Moody Was Born—His Fiftieth Birthday Celebrated at the Admirable Schools He Has Founded.**

One of the most unique and successful systems of education for the youth of both sexes is in operation on the banks of the Connecticut river at Northfield, Mass. This system is due to the energy and ability of Dwight L. Moody, the evangelist, and it seems fitting and praiseworthy that he should have returned to the spot where his own youthful studies were pursued to put his idea as regards the education of the young into practical shape. Mr. Moody was born at Northfield, Feb. 5, 1837. At the age of 4 years he lost his father, and the mother had a hard struggle to provide for her family and give them the simplest elements of an education.

In his 17th year he went to Boston and found employment in the shoe store of his maternal uncles, Lemuel and Samuel Holton. Two years later he went to Chicago, where he was again employed as a salesman. Here, as in Boston, he showed unusual capacity for business, and, in fact, throughout his whole career his executive ability has been very great. In all his plans his head and heart have been enthusiastically enlisted, and his efforts have been rewarded with uniform success. His appearance is that of the prosperous man of business, and despite the wear and tear of his manner of life he has been growing stouter year by year.



MR. MOODY'S BIRTHPLACE.

Northfield is situated at a point where three states—Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire—meet and where the scenery begins to show evidence of the mountainous character that it obtains farther north. The project of the Moody schools was broached by their founder in 1879, and his troops of friends in Europe and America stood ready with pecuniary aid. Mr. Moody had very clear ideas of what he wanted; to make the Bible the foundation of all culture, to prepare young men and women for life by combining classical and industrial education—these were his objects. He has succeeded admirably, for there are now many more applicants for admittance than the schools can accommodate.

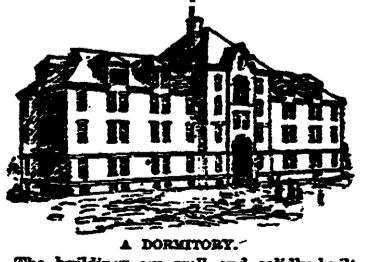
The points of difference between the Moody schools and other institutions of learning with the same or similar avowed objects are many and interesting. In the first place Mr. Moody has acquired sufficient land to enable him to put into practice any plan he might afterward wish to take advantage of; so that the grounds of the girls' seminary comprise 250 acres, and those of the boys' school 400. In both schools a rigorous exclusion of applicants, who seem from habit or otherwise to be unfit for admission, is exercised. In the seminary girls wishing to enter must be 15 years of age and in good health.



A RECITATION HALL.

This last stipulation is very necessary, as they are expected "to perform all the work of a house under the supervision of a matron." There are two courses of study, each covering three years. In the Latin course Cicero, Caesar and Virgil are read, while English composition is a prominent feature of both courses. Greek, French and German are elective studies, as is also trigonometry, while algebra and geometry are required from all. In every class the Bible is a text book. The whole cost of board and tuition for a year is \$100. Though others have failed in the combination of household and school duties, Mr. Moody seems to have struck the golden mean in not making the exercises of the one branch so heavy as to prevent the proper operation of those of the other.

The boys' school is four miles distant from the site of the girls' seminary, and is named Mount Hermon. It is just as rigorously selective as that of the girls, the trustees stating that "lazy, disorderly or vicious boys will not be received knowingly, or long retained if received ignorantly." Pupils must be 16 years of age, and are received on probation only. Here are some of the questions proposed to the candidates for admission: "Has the candidate shown an ambition to excel in anything?" "Has he formed any purpose in life?" "What are his prominent traits of character?" "Has he any bad companionships?" "Why do you wish to send him to this school?" It will be seen that the examinations are of the most searching kind, and they will effectually debar from membership any one who has no real interest in his own culture and advancement. The boys are also required to work on the farm two or three hours each day, and to turn their hands to all varieties of field labor and to the care of live stock. This department of the work is under the supervision of a practical farmer.



A DORMITORY.

The buildings are well and solidly built, with a view to the picturesque as well as to comfort. They are heated by steam and have hot and cold water on every floor. The boys are divided into groups of about twenty, under the care of two ladies, forming a number of distinct families. This is very much of an improvement over the usual dormitory system, where from fifty to seventy-five boys are housed together.