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Dwight L. Moody and the
World's Fair Campaign, 1893.

From May first to October thirty-first, 1893, Dwight L. Moody conducted a revival in Chicago, during the World's Fair. In planning, strategy, the numbers of workers involved and the results, one cannot think of a greater evangelistic program, in a given city, in modern times. The scope of this revival has hardly been surpassed. Many meetings were conducted simultaneously. Forty to Seventy Thousand persons attended meetings each Sunday. Many more thousands during the week, attended. Noted preachers from far and near assisted in the preaching. Some came from foreign shores. Hundreds of workers gave their help. Three hundred came from Moody Bible Institute alone. The results in conversions were so great, that no one attempted to give estimates. The city, God-ward was changed. Where indifference, crime, drunkenness, sabbath-breaking had been the rule, changed lives, with a new morality the standard came to be known and respected. Where the unchurched had been everywhere, a new surge to fill the churches became known. The writer, as a lad in a secular High School in the city, in 1917, 24 years afterward, found, that among his class mates, revivals were being discussed. When Bill Sunday came to Chicago he found ready soil for a great revival. Prayer meetings could be held in homes within each square block of neighbors, all over the city, prior to the Lake-front tabernacle meetings. Mass evangelism became popular. On the street cars, christians took the situation in hand. Songs of Zion floated as the cars sped thru the night. Personal evangelism in public places became the rule.

We may ask, How did this come about? Our answer must begin with the record of faith and devotion of a single man. Some said that the time to come during the World's Fair, was not propitious. But Mr. Moody, after deciding to make the effort, pursued his course undeterred. That a vast crowd of visitors to the city to see the Fair were coming, was to him, not a deterrent but an opportunity for evangelism. His had been ever a devotion to the cause of winning