

**THE COMPLETE ORATIONS
AND SPEECHES OF HENRY
W. GRADY**

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The complete orations and speeches of Henry W. Grady by Edwin DuBois Shurter

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EDWIN DUBOIS SHURTER

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HENRY W. GRADY

EDITED BY

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CALIFORNIA

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PREFACE

THIS volume of the complete orations and speeches of Henry W. Grady has been prepared in the belief that a separate edition of the oratorical efforts of this gifted Southerner will be welcomed by his many admirers; for, without disparagement of other speakers, Grady stands, by common consent, as the representative Southern orator since the Civil War. Some of his orations were included in a Memorial volume, an edition now exhausted, and prepared, as was remarked by the editor, Mr. Joel Chandler Harris, "in a great hurry." Fugitive speeches of Mr. Grady have been printed in pamphlet form, and four of his orations have been edited for school and college classes in oratory, but a separate edition of all his orations and speeches has not before been published. The Temperance speech in the present volume, in defense of prohibition in Atlanta, has not, I think, heretofore appeared in print except in a newspaper report.

PREFACE

For the text of the orations and speeches I am indebted to the courtesy of the editors of the *Atlanta Constitution*, in the pages of which the addresses originally appeared.

E. D. S.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS,
February, 1910.

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ORATIONS AND SPEECHES

INTRODUCTION¹

GRADY AS AN ORATOR

HENRY WOODFIN GRADY, journalist and orator, was born at Athens, Georgia, April 24, 1850. He graduated from the State University, at Athens, at the age of eighteen, and took a post-graduate course at the University of Virginia. For some time he acted as Southern correspondent for the New York *Herald*, and later became editor of the Rome (Georgia) *Daily Commercial* and of the Atlanta *Herald*. His journalistic efforts were not financially successful until, in 1880, he became editor and part owner of the Atlanta *Constitution*. He remained with this paper until his death, December 23, 1889.

To the argument that the press in modern times has supplanted oratory, the career of Henry W. Grady is a refutation. Journalism was his profession, while his oratory was an incident; and yet his fame and influence came

¹In part a reprint from the Editor's *Masterpieces of Modern Oratory*.

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chiefly through the incident. It is but a comparatively short time since his last public address was delivered, yet even now the story of his oratorical triumphs reads like a doubtful tale. On December 21, 1886, he accepted an invitation to speak on the "New South" at the annual banquet of the New England Society, in New York City. The reception of this speech, both by the immediate audience and by that larger audience reached through the press, amounted to a sensation. The night of the speech Grady was favorably known in his own section; the next morning he was receiving the enthusiastic plaudits of the whole country. Not excepting Mr. Bryan's effort at Chicago,—and excelling it in sustained interest and influence,—nothing in the history of modern oratory equals Grady's rocket-like flight to fame. Through this single speech he became a national figure, and his oratory of national renown and influence.

The better to understand Grady's oratory, let us briefly consider his equipment, and the cause to which his life was devoted.

Introduced to a Boston audience as "the incomparable orator of the day," Grady remarked, "I am a talker by inheritance: my father was an Irishman and my mother was a woman." His Irish ancestry may explain his ready wit and delicious humor, his facility and fluency in