

HENRY WOODFIN GRADY was born in Athens, Ga., in 1851. He received in his youth excellent educational advantages, but his studies were disturbed by the civil war. The close of the war found him fatherless, Col. Grady having fallen on the battlefield. Young Grady graduated at the state university, and then took a post-graduate course in the university of Virginia. History, belles lettres, Anglo-Saxon and Greek attracted him, and he stood very high in these branches. From an early age his command of language was remarkable. His magnetic and ringing style of speaking won for him the title of the "silver-tongued orator," and in the literary societies of the two universities he carried off the highest honors as a speaker. While a student he wrote a letter to the Atlanta "Constitution," which was the beginning of his journalistic career. A year or two later he became the editor and part owner of the Rome "Daily Commercial." The field was too limited for him, and in 1872 he went to Atlanta and purchased an interest in the Atlanta "Herald." This paper was one of the most brilliant newspapers ever printed in the south. Later he became the southern correspondent of the New York "Herald," and on this great journal did some of the best work of his life. In 1880 he purchased a fourth interest in the Atlanta "Constitution," and became managing editor. As the guest of the New England society, at its annual banquet in New York, in 1886, he delivered a speech which attracted widespread attention. As a newspaper man, Mr. Grady's capacity for rapid work was amazing, and his fertility in conceiving newspaper enterprises audacious and prolific. His best gift was his eloquence, and one who has heard every famous orator since 1850, including Everett, Choate, Webster, Clay and Prentiss, says Henry Grady was unsurpassed. Of his brilliant orations, the following stand forth as the most striking illustrations of the great eloquence of Mr. Grady: Speech on prohibition, in Atlanta in 1887; at Dallas, Tex., 1888, opening of the state fair; to the societies of the Virginia universities, at Charlottesville, 1889, and his last public address, after the banquet of the Merchants' association in Boston, in December, 1889. On this occasion Mr. Grady contracted a cold which resulted in his death, Dec. 23, 1889. At his death Mr. Grady was the largest young national figure of this great government. Putting the war behind him, in his position as editor and orator, he directed thought to the united future, and thus did the mission of a national peacemaker. Mr. Grady married Julia King, in October, 1872. His sudden demise was a shock to the whole country, and his funeral was attended by a large concourse of people. A monument in Atlanta was erected to his memory by a popular public subscription, in which the thousands of friends of the great man among the poorer people contributed.