

WILLIAM DRYSDALE DEAD

Author and Journalist Expires at His Home in Cranford, N. J.

Had Traveled Extensively and Was Well Known by His Books of Adventure for Boys.

CRANFORD, N. J., Sept. 20.—William Drysdale, the author and journalist, died here to-day.

Although for a number of years previous to his death William Drysdale had largely kept aloof from active journalism, devoting his talents principally to the writing of that most fascinating literature in the entire realm of letters, books for boys, he was remembered as one of the leading figures of New York newspaperdom during the past quarter of a century. To the very last he was on intimate terms of friendship with most of the newspaper men of the city, from the reporters to the editors in chief.

It was during his service on the staff of THE NEW YORK TIMES, extending almost unbroken over a period of more than twenty years, that he established his reputation, and the last journalistic work he ever did was to report the opening of the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo last Spring in a series of letters which appeared in this paper over his signature and constituted some of the best newspaper descriptive work of the year.

Mr. Drysdale was born July 11, 1852, in Lancaster, Penn., and received his earlier education at the hands of his father. He subsequently attended Columbla Law School. He began to write almost as soon as he learned to read, and in 1874, when barely of age, he became at a stroke one of the leading reporters of The New York Sun, taking naturally to the gathering and preparing of news. One of his most notable pieces of work during his connection with The Sun was the reporting of the trial of Henry Ward Beecher. He spent six months on this great trial, and his stories of the proceedings attracted almost National attention among newspaper readers. He was a warm friend and admirer of Mr. Beecher to the last. In 1888 he published, at Mr. Beecher's request, "Proverbs from Plymouth Pulpit," made up of extracts from the writings and sayings of the noted divine.

In 1876, during the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia, Drysdale accepted the position of city editor of The Philadelphia Times, and, gathering about him as the nucleus of his staff a number of the leading New York reporters, gave the Quaker City readers some notable examples of news gathering.

In 1877 he returned to New York to join the staff of THE NEW YORK TIMES. His work here was an almost unbroken series of brilliant achievements in almost every department of news gathering. He brought to his work a knowledge of men and things and conditions and a power of description, together with the rare faculty of observation, that lifted him above the ordinary humdrum of recording events and made some of his newspaper stories worthy of a place in literature.

In 1879 he went to Mexico and Cuba in the service of THE NEW YORK TIMES, and for many years afterward he spent nearly half his time in that part of the world, writing amusing and descriptive letters from Bermuda, Nassau, Cuba, Mexico, St. Kitts, Jamaica, Montserrat, Martinique, Trinidad, and the South and Southwest of the United States.

As was to be expected, his travels gave him more material than could be well used in a newspaper, and he devoted his overflow of talent to the writing of books. The many strange things that he saw in his wanderings he wove into tales, which in book form found their way into the hands of unnumbered boys throughout this and other lands. Some of his many books are "In Sunny Lands," "Outdoor Life in Cuba and Nassau," "The Princess of Montserrat," "The Mystery of Abel Forefinger," "The Young Reporter," "The Fast Mail," "The Beach Patrol," "The Young Super-cargo," "Cadet Standish of the St. Louis," "The Treasury Club," "Helps for Ambitious Boys," and "Helps for Ambitious Girls."

His last foreign work for THE NEW YORK TIMES was an extended tour of Europe, ending two years ago, during which he wrote a series of weekly letters of unusual scope and interest.

Although he spent more than half his life as a rover over the world, Drysdale was a hater of cities and took his greatest delight among the grass and flowers of the fields and the trees of the thick forest. He never really lived in New York, but had a pleasant Summer home in Cranford, where he spent much of his time.

Mr. Drysdale was not a boy in size, standing more than six feet in height and weighing in the neighborhood of 200 pounds, but at the time of his death he was as much of a boy in character as when he first began his journalistic career. In 1885 he married Adelaide Louise Bigelow, daughter of the founder of Cranford. She survives him, as also does a son.

Funeral services will take place to-morrow at 10 A. M. at his home, 24 Eastman Street, Cranford. The interment will be at Greenwood, the funeral train leaving Cranford at 1 P. M. to-morrow.