

REVIVAL: MOODY AND SANKEY IN WINDSOR

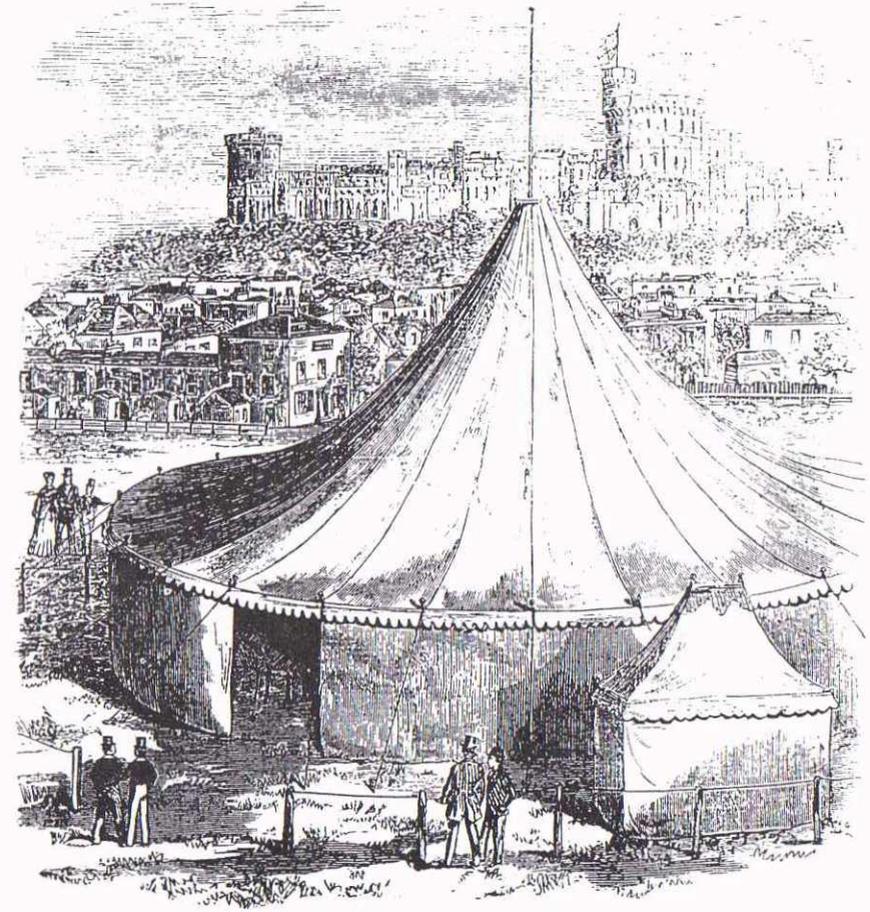
"No incident has occurred for a very long time in the towns of Windsor and Eton which has caused so much excitement and warmth of feeling as the visit of Messrs. Moody and Sankey." This was the commencement of the leading article in the *Windsor and Eton Express* of Saturday, June 26th 1875.

Dwight Lyman Moody and Ira David Sankey were two evangelists from the United States of America who had held a series of successful revival meetings in America and England. Landing on our shores in 1875, they were to find themselves the subject of discussion in both the House of Lords and the House of Commons. This was due to their proposed visit to Eton in order to hold an afternoon service on South Meadow for the pupils of Eton College.

The *Daily Telegraph* sketched the debate in the House of Lords:

"The intention of Messrs. Moody and Sankey to preach in the vicinity of Eton College this afternoon has reached the dignity of a political event; for it had a debate all to itself in the House of Lords, and it was discussed with much heat as if it had threatened the peace of Europe. The Marquis of Bath scarcely allowed the House to assemble before he asked with fervid earnestness whether the authorities of Eton College had given the boys leave to attend the services of the American evangelists, and whether steps could still be taken to prevent their young minds from coming into contact with the unlicensed vendors of religious wares. Lord Lyttleton, who is one of the Governors, could do no more than read some further correspondence, and promise that the question should be brought before the Board of Governors today. Lord Overstone broke a long silence by an eloquent protest against the idea of allowing the Eton boys to attend any service unauthorised by the Church of England. Gallantly rushing to the rescue of his evangelistic friends, Lord Shaftesbury vehemently insisted that so important a subject should not have been discussed without notice, and it needed all the firmness and tact of the Duke of Richmond to bring the House to the proper business of the evening."

Another protagonist was Mr. Knatchbull-Hugesson, who raised the matter in the House of Commons; he obtained the signatures of seventy four members on a letter of protest to be sent to the



*Moody and Sankey's tent at Eton as shown in the Christian Herald,
June 30th 1875*