



“The Fiery Fiddler”

Remarkable Career of Wiltshire Boy

The remarkable career of a former Upton Lovell boy, who became one of the Salvation Army's outstanding officer's, is the subject of a booklet recently published. He was Col. James Dowdle, who was born at Upton Lovell in 1840, and at the age of 12 was apprenticed to a local wheelwright. He left to go to London, where he was employed on the G. W. R., and was known as a mischievous youth who “loved a scrap.” He had three miraculous escapes from being killed by trains, and subsequently took up religious work, commencing with attempts to reform his workmates, some of whom did not take very kindly to his efforts. He was frequently in difficult situations when gangs tried to break up his meetings. His skill with the violin earned him the name of the “Fiery Fiddler”, by which he was known in many parts of the world. He built up many Salvation Army commands, and went on many roving campaigns all over the world. He died towards the end of the last century, and the Army founder, General Wm. Booth officiated at his funeral, when his Army cap and his fiddle were placed on his coffin.

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