

MISCELLANEOUS.

AMOS BRONSON ALCOTT.

AMOS BRONSON ALCOTT (see Frontispiece to this *Open Court*) was born in the little town of Wolcott, Conn., Nov. 29, 1799. He died at Boston, March 4, 1888.

He first became known as a teacher, and his school in Boston excited much attention by the originality of his ideas and methods. Both Margaret Fuller and Elizabeth P. Peabody assisted him at times in his work. He published a *Record of a School* which gives an account of this work and also *Conversations of the Gospels*. These conversations were held by his young scholars, and they are much prized by educators for their revelations of the minds of childhood.

He took a brave part in the anti-slavery and other reforms of the day, and had many original ideas and plans of his own.

He was one of the leading minds among the famous transcendentalists, and his *Orphic Sayings* attracted much attention. He tried a practical experiment in associated life at Fruitlands, but it did not prove successful.

Mr. Alcott married Miss Abby May, a sister of the well-beloved Samuel Joseph May of Syracuse. She was a woman of high intellectual power and great strength of character, and all her daughters inherited much of their parents' rare gifts. Louisa, the author of *Little Women*, became famous and has made all her family so by her stories.

Mr. Alcott lived very quietly at Concord for some years in intimate friendship with Emerson, Thoreau, and the other famous men of that town. Previously, while living mostly in Boston, he had classes for conversation which were well attended by highly cultivated men and women and which were of great interest.

About 1854 he first went West to give lectures, and later in 1873 and succeeding years he made several trips to the West and was quite successful in drawing around him a circle of sympathetic friends.

He was the original projector of "the Concord School of Philosophy" which opened at Concord in 1879, and as long as his health permitted he took part in all its exercises as lecturer or as listener. When about eighty he first appeared in public as a poet, publishing a volume of sonnets.

Full particulars of Mr. Alcott's life and philosophy may be found in the *Memoirs of Bronson Alcott*, by Sanborn and Harris, published by Roberts Brothers. Boston.

The bas-relief forming the frontispiece to the present *Open Court*, which is here published for the first time, was made from life, in 1852, by Seth W. Cheney of Boston.