

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

1834–1892 (57)

Born—UK

Died—France



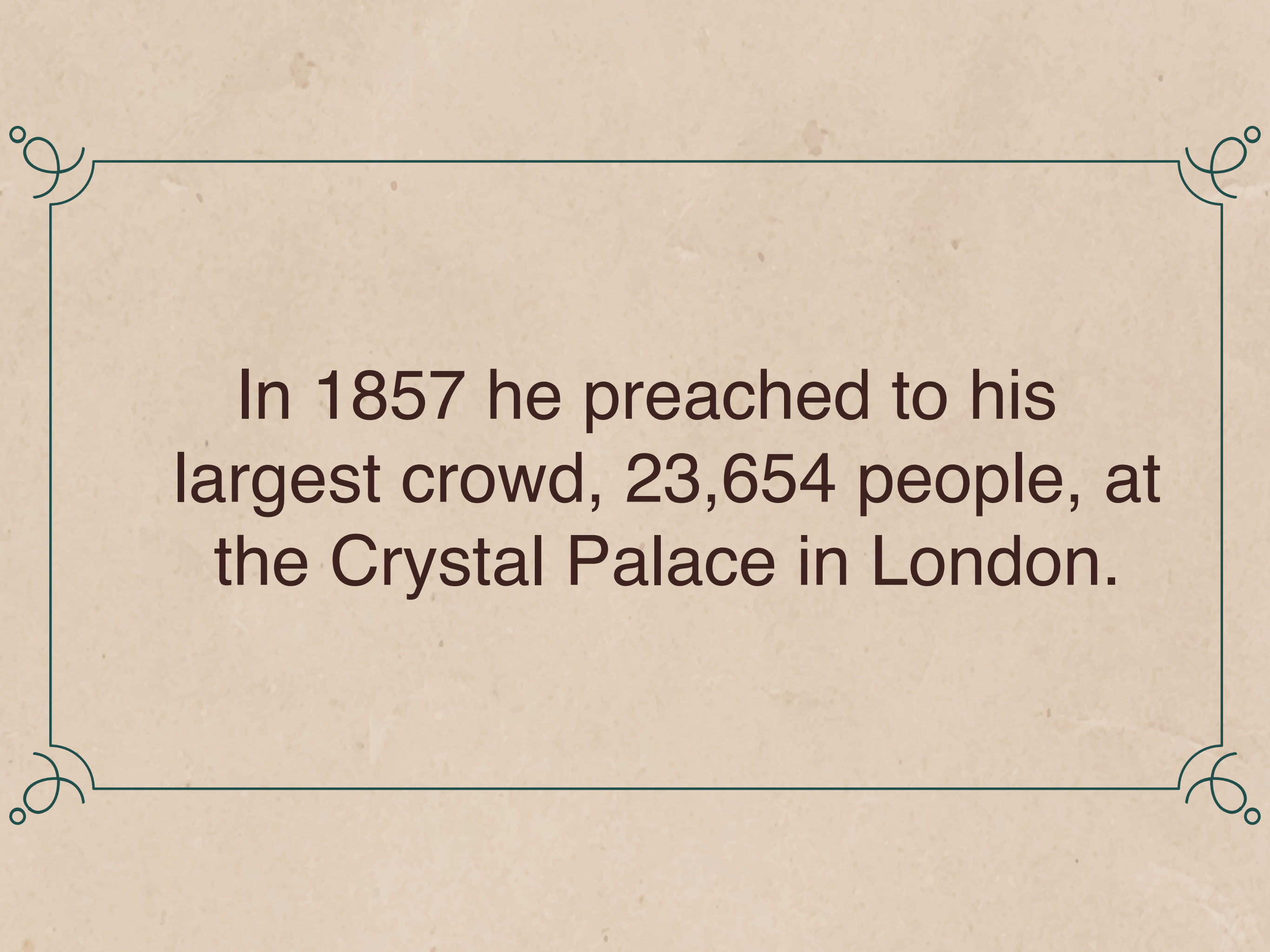
Justin Fulton in his book *Charles H. Spurgeon, Our Ally* (1892) reported on Spurgeon and the temperance movement. He stated that other books were written telling of Spurgeon using tobacco and alcohol and that he would light up in his carriage on his way home from preaching.

Fulton met Spurgeon when he was 34-years-old. He had previously taken the temperance pledge but had gone back to his wine and beer and smoked to an alarming extent. Other men wept and pleaded with him, for the sake of perishing millions, to become an abstainer.

The battle was fought and the victory was won, and Spurgeon became a total abstinence champion, not because of his gout, but because he loved Christ and souls better than he loved strong drink.

Surrey Music Hall 1858

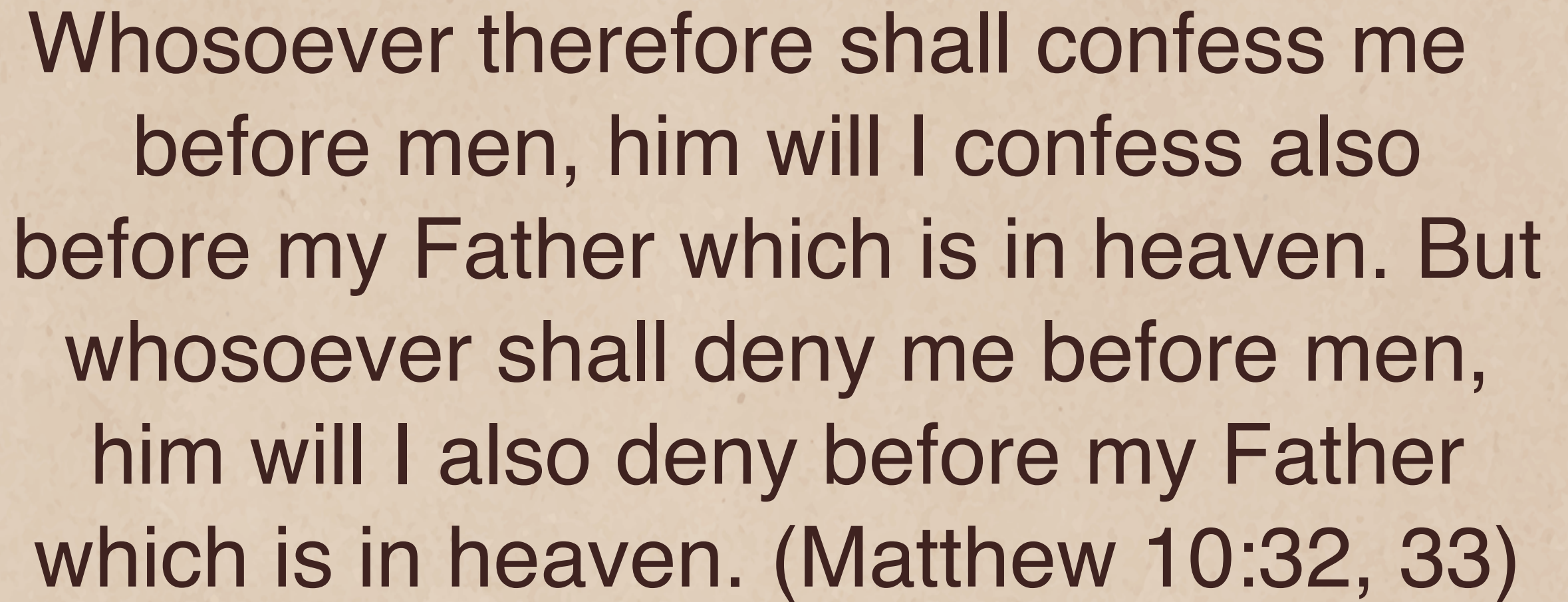




In 1857 he preached to his largest crowd, 23,654 people, at the Crystal Palace in London.

A day or two before preaching at the Crystal Palace, I went to decide where the platform should be fixed; and, in order to test the acoustic properties of the building, cried in a loud voice, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." In one of the galleries, a workman, who knew nothing of what was being done, heard the words, and they came like a message from heaven to his soul. He was smitten with conviction on account of sin, put down his tools, went home, and there, after a season of spiritual struggling, found peace and life by beholding the Lamb of God. Years after, he told this story to one who visited him on his death-bed.

I would propose that the subject of the ministry of this house, as long as this platform shall stand, and as long as this house shall be frequented by worshippers, shall be the person of Jesus Christ. I am never ashamed to avow myself a Calvinist, although I claim to be rather a Calvinist according to Calvin, than after the modern debased fashion. I do not hesitate to take the name of Baptist. You have there (pointing to the baptistry) substantial evidence that I am not ashamed of that ordinance of our Lord Jesus Christ; but if I am asked to say what is my creed, I think I must reply: "It is Jesus Christ."

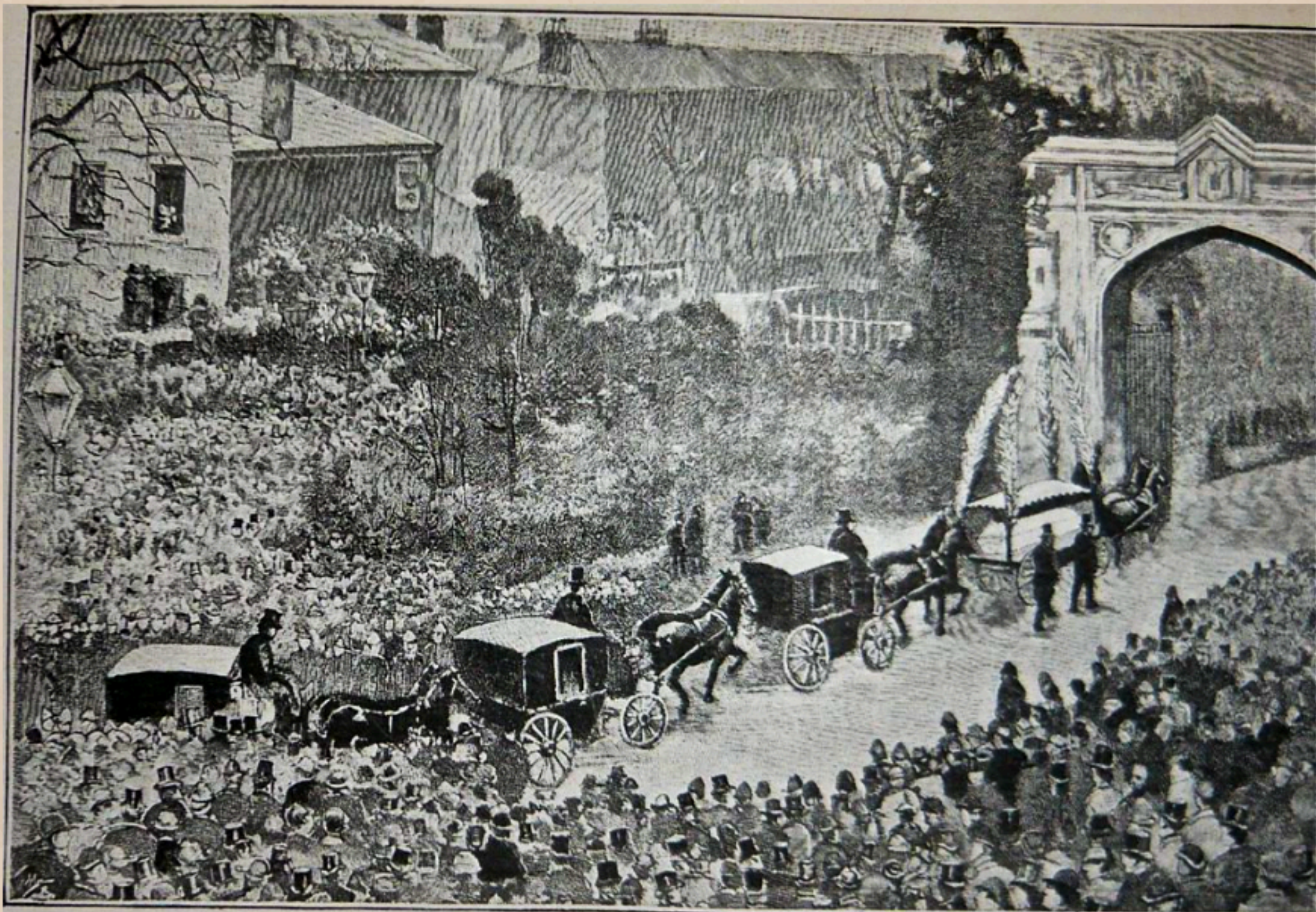


Whosoever therefore shall confess me
before men, him will I confess also
before my Father which is in heaven. But
whosoever shall deny me before men,
him will I also deny before my Father
which is in heaven. (Matthew 10:32, 33)

He became increasingly unwell, and he went to rest in Menton. During this time he wrote pages of commentary, but he did not recover and died in Menton from gout and congestion of the kidneys. From May 1891 until his death in February 1892 he received 10,000 letters of condolence, resolutions of sympathy, telegrams of enquiry.

On the day of the funeral eight hundred extra police were on duty along the route the cortège took from the Metropolitan Tabernacle, past the Stockwell Orphanage to the Norwood Cemetery.

Sixty-five pair-horse broughams were provided by the undertakers for conveying the invited mourners and delegates to the cemetery, but there were altogether from two to three hundred private carriages and other vehicles joining in the procession, which it is estimated must have been nearly two miles in length.



THE FUNERAL CORTÈGE ENTERING NORWOOD CEMETERY.

Extra trains were needed for the crowd, along with extra omnibuses and cabs. Most businesses along the funeral route were shut. An estimated 100,000 people either passed by Spurgeon as he lay in state or attended the funeral services. An unknown number lined the streets for the cortège.



HERE LIES THE BODY OF
CHARLES HADDON SPURGEON
WAITING FOR THE APPEARING OF HIS
LORD AND SAVIOUR
JESUS CHRIST
ALSO THAT OF
HIS DEARLY BELOVED WIFE
SUSANNAH
WILL WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS FROM THY EYES
THERE SHALL BE NO MORE DEATH NEITHER SORROW
NOR CRYING NEITHER SHALL THERE BE ANY MORE PAIN