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Mrs. E. L. Baeyertz.

THE JEWISH LADY EVANGELIST.

'It pleased God who . . . called me by his grace to reveal his Son in me that I might preach him!' No words could more aptly be applied than these to the experience of Mrs. Baeyertz, now well known both sides of the world as the 'Jewish Lady Evangelist.' When Paul gave his life to 'preach the faith' which he 'once destroyed,' and the churches heard of it, it is written that 'they glorified God in me.' We earnestly pray that this brief epitome of the Lord's dealings with, and work through, his honored servant of to-day, may lead to the same result. She came to England as a 'messenger' to 'the churches' to 'the glory of Christ;' she leaves us now at his call (after twelve fruitful years in our midst) to be the same, we trust, to Western Australia, and any other place whither he shall call.

Mrs. Baeyertz was converted by the revelation of Christ to her soul, as she prayerfully read St. John's Gospel. This was soon after the sudden bereavement which left her widowed indeed. Of her previous life, in a strictly religious Jewish home in England; of the very strange ending of that home life, and the way in which, in the land of her adoption, she found a new home amid worldliness of every kind; of her marriage with a Christian, which severed her connection with many of her own family and race—we cannot now write. (For these, as for fuller details of the work in Australia and America, we refer our readers to her biography.) By strange paths the Lord was preparing her for the reception of the once despised Jesus as Saviour, and for service.

From the time of her conversion, her heart was filled with a longing to publish the good tidings. There was, therefore, a speedy entrance into all sorts of Christian work; but Mrs. Baeyertz soon became conscious that the results were small and conversions unknown. What was lacking? God had led her to Calvary; now she needed to know Pentecost's endowment. There came a week of waiting upon God for this, in company with a few like-minded. On the first of these days such an overwhelming revelation of the sinfulness of sin and his holy Presence was given that she feared to continue her search. But a friend encouraged her 'for Christ's sake' to 'follow on to know the Lord,' and 'for Christ's sake' she consented, whatever humblings or soul-travail it might bring. At the end of the gatherings for prayer, she rose from her knees, 'feeling' no experience of Power within. Brought face to face with the promises of the Word, she dared to 'receive by faith,' and went forth to find the Promiser faithful. At once souls were saved in class and district, and very soon a new sphere of work opened before her in Melbourne. There Dr. Singleton described her as 'a flame of fire,' and souls were converted in all her different meetings.

Just at this crisis, her 'reputation' had to be yielded up to the Lord with regard to addressing mixed meetings. It was evident he had chosen her to be one of his 'daughters' who

should 'prophesy.' The first mission, held in a large theatre in Sandhurst, was followed by one at Ballarat. Here vehicular traffic was forbidden in the street where the theatre stood, on account of the crowds assembling for the services! At Adelaide, after a fresh test of her surrender of reputation, the new departure of a meeting for 'men only,' in the course of the mission, was started. This plan has been so abundantly owned of God, we do not wonder the enemy of souls sought to hinder its beginning. Six months' work on Sunday evenings in the Theatre Royal in Melbourne followed, and then the Lord began to indicate a new door of service.

For two years invitations had come from a former co-worker to visit New Zealand. Every natural desire rose against the suggestion, which was regarded as 'too painful and far-fetched to entertain.' The dread of the sea voyage, the loneliness of the new pathway, the separation from loved friends (including her only son), and apparently insurmountable difficulties, seemed to make refusal reasonable. But there came a day when, at a big



MRS. E. L. BAEYERTZ.

meeting for Christians taken by the Rev. H. B. Macartney, God met with Mrs. Baeyertz again in a special manner; this time the question was: 'Will you go to New Zealand and America for me?' The first place was no surprise—but America! She knew no one in that land, and of no openings for evangelistic work which she could enter. But the voice was clear, and response was prompt.

Thus, in simple faith that the Lord would 'go before,' provide open doors, and work, his servant left Australia for New Zealand at the close of 1889. She carried with her a letter signed by Dr. John G. Paton, of the New Hebrides, and thirteen ministers, recommending her to 'the churches of Christ wherever . . . she may be led, as a sister worthy in every way of their confidence and esteem, and as one eminently qualified by the Great Head of the Church to be their helper in the work of our Lord.' The letter contained this testimony:—

There is not a city, and scarcely a town or hamlet, in Victoria, where men and women

won to Christ through her instrumentality, are not to be found.

In her own spiritual life the Lord was leading into deeper experience of the need of 'a clean heart.' Hours of agonized prayer for deliverance from sin's power marked this period of her history. At last, in a meeting, she knelt with her audience to seek the cleansing of life and deliverance from the bondage of sin which, in spite of Holy Ghost power in service, had not yet been received. Soon his voice was heard again, in the assurance: 'A new heart will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you'; and once more Mrs. Baeyertz took the Lord at his word, and she praised him for his gift. Dunedin, Christchurch, and other towns were visited in New Zealand. At Auckland, the afternoon Bible-readings often had an attendance of 1,000 to 1,500.

In spite of many requests that she should return to Melbourne, Mrs. Baeyertz pressed on along the line the Lord indicated. This led her to San Francisco, but her reception here was far from cheering. Nevertheless, the next week after landing saw her engaged in a week's meetings among the members of the Y.M.C.A.; these were followed by a mission in the First Baptist Church, and a time of great blessing. From California she passed to Hamilton and Toronto, and thence to Boston, where Dr. Gordon wrote very highly of the work. Practically the whole of Canada was now opened to her. Quebec had its wonderful gatherings, and Ottawa rejoiced in 'one long series of victories of the mighty conquering Jesus.' Everywhere in that great land God honored his servant by making her the instrument of winning hundreds of precious souls to himself; and speaking of the great crowds that gathered a Montreal paper thus writes:—

Where is the sober believer in the New Testament who will venture to ascribe this attracting power to other causes than that which drew the crowds to hear the Apostles on the day of Pentecost?

Taking ship from New York on April 13, 1892, Mrs. Baeyertz left America for the British Isles, uninvited by human call, but 'sent forth by the Holy Ghost,' as the sequel proves. Instead of welcome, suspicion and misunderstanding met her in some quarters. The first 'door' opened after arrival in Ireland, when she preached in Canon Daunt's schoolhouse in the afternoon and in the Methodist Chapel at night. Of several Irish Missions, the one in Dublin was especially blessed. A correspondent to 'The Christian' of that date reported as follows:—

From the first address given . . . it was evident that no ordinary teacher was amongst us. The meetings steadily increased in interest and numbers until the close, when the audiences began to assemble an hour and upwards before the time for commencing.

The Scotch missions were very much enjoyed as a rule by the evangelist, and must have brought great joy to the heart of the Lord who welcomed lost sheep of all ages and conditions of life to his fold from these. Of one of these Scottish missions we received