

Our Mission.

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get it. He prospered so much that before long he owned three of the largest boot and shoe establishments in Glasgow. His trust in prayer was deepened by his mother's conversion. She lived long enough to give unmistakable proofs of the sincerity of her change, and died in the joy of the Gospel she had long despised.

The sum of money he proposed to amass for the proposed Orphan Home was £20,000. As soon as he got it, he intended to begin work. Though successful in business his liberal contributions to ecclesiastical and philanthropic schemes prevented his gathering the money so quickly as he had hoped. This disappointment was salutary. It led him out of self, and made him more dependent on God.

One night in November of 1864, he came across a boy crying bitterly in Jamaica street; his sympathy was awakened: he listened to the tale of distress and relieved the want. That incident lay at the foundation of the first shoeblack brigade in Scotland. A house was rented in a suitable district, waifs were brought to it, and inspired to action by being taught how to help themselves. The movement turned out a success financially and morally. The boys soon became self-supporting, and were put on the highway to better lives. The brigade began with forty, but rapidly grew in size. Its members were bound by certain rules, which kept them together and furnished a discipline for their unruly natures. That discipline was an active factor in developing the good in them. Mr. Quarrier loses no opportunity of urging the necessity for the general organization of street children as the best preventive of their falling into crime; and social reformers may yet come to realize the value of his counsel.

Organization was much, but it was not all. There was a need for home influences and training to be brought to bear on the boys. That need could only be supplied by the establishment of an Orphan Home. But how to establish such a home was a difficult problem to solve. In 1871, Miss Macpherson, of London, who had already done a great deal for outcast children in the way of finding homes for them in Canada, came to Glasgow. She urged Mr. Quarrier to go further than he had yet gone, and consecrate himself wholly to the work he had begun. He had many objections to offer, but she answered them all. She left him with the advice, "Pray to God about it."

He did. He felt drawn strongly to devote all his time to the outcast, but, wanting to make sure of Divine guidance, he wished a sign to throw light on the path of duty. If from £1000 to £2000 were sent to him for the building of an orphanage, he would go forward with the work. On the thirteenth morning after the sign was asked, a letter came from a friend in London, promising £2000. The moment in which that letter was opened and read, was the crisis of William Quarrier's life. Henceforth, as he himself graphically put it in a conversation with the writer, "I rose out of myself." His faith became equal to the burden laid upon it. He felt that whatever money would be required would be sent, and that confidence was not put to shame.

He rented a large room, intended for a workshop, partitioned off a kitchen, and brightened up the bare walls with Scripture texts. A homeless boy, without shoes or comfortable clothing, was brought to the fire-side and invited to stay. He was not sure about passing the night there, but the warmth of the fire persuaded him. More came. Once they entered they did not think of leaving. What they all felt was expressed by one little fellow, who, on being asked, Why he did not run away? replied, 'Cause this place is guid." During the first year ninety-three waifs were received. Of these thirty-five were sent to Canada, and the others were helped to a respectable livelihood in Scotland.

That was fourteen years ago. Many changes have happened since then, but Mr. Quarrier's work has known no changes save those of extended scope and widened usefulness. Opposition was lived down, and scoffers were silenced. Men were forced to see the hand of God in the, to them, Quixotic scheme of the Glasgow shoemaker. Other movements rose and fell, but this one went steadily on, because it was rooted in obedience to the Divine call, and sustained by believing prayer.

Statistics are not attractive reading, but they serve a useful purpose; they form the test of the prosperity of an undertaking. Judged by this standard Mr. Quarrier's work is highly successful. He has built twenty houses in Bridge of Weir at a cost of £50,000, and city homes at a cost of £12,000; and the annual expenditure of his various agencies amounts to something like £10,000. He has long ago outgrown the idea of £20,000 sufficing. Nearly 2,200 children have been sent to Canada, where they are received at Marchmont Home, Belleville, (where Miss E. A. Bilbrough is a faithful and whole-souled laborer for the Master, and has for years been the moving spirit on this side of the Atlantic in this work) The lads here begin work under favorable auspices.

The collection of the money is carried on in a way characteristic of the man. No subscriptions are called for; no donors get further publicity than the publication of their initials and the sums they give; and the accounts, checked by a trustworthy accountant, are issued in a yearly report. No endowment is ac-