

SPECIAL
ARTICLES

Our Contributors

BOOK
REVIEWS

A CLOSING NIGHT IN THE KOOTENAY CAMPAIGN.

By Rev. W. D. Reid, B.D.

It had been a hard and in some respects difficult campaign. The town was largely under the domination of foreigners and whiskey. The English-speaking people were cold and indifferent, so far as religion was concerned. The meetings had been held for three weeks with more or less success. The last evening had come. One of the missionaries had gone, and only one was left on the field. It was a dark, dull Sunday evening, and a strange sense of loneliness swept down upon the lone missionary as he trudged his way to the little church. He had prayed much about this last service, and after some difficulty had decided upon the subject of "Drifting" as the one from which he would give his last message to the careless people. As he ascended the platform the place was packed to the doors, and he noticed two or three of the noted atheists of the town in the audience. He led the audience in a short song service. But his heart felt so terribly heavy that he could hardly sing. He commenced his sermon, and at first some of the young men at the back tittered and talked and laughed. As he proceeded, however, a strange uplift came to the preacher, and as he realized that almost every man and woman before him had drifted, some more, some less, a strange yearning to see them one and all brought to Christ took hold of him. The Spirit of God was mightily present, and preacher and people seemed in a peculiar indescribable manner to be swept into the very presence of God.

After speaking for 40 minutes, the preacher suddenly stopped and asked "Any one who wants to decide for Christ, stand up." There was a strange commotion went on for a time, and soon all over the building one and another struggled to their feet. The meeting was dismissed, and those who had stood were spoken with, and the preacher at last found himself outside of the door. As he came out several people were talking in front of the door, where was a good strong electric light, a woman stepped up to the missionary and said, "Can I have a word with you, sir?" "Certainly," said the tired preacher, for he had spoken many times that day. A look of intense eagerness and earnestness was in her face. She said, "I felt I must tell you, sir, I have decided to be a Christian, and here is my decision card. I took it home the other night, and after much prayer I have signed it and decided for Christ. There is just one thing I am afraid about, and that is will Christ receive such a sinner as I am? I stabbed my own mother in England and came to this country to escape the stern hand of the law. Do you think there is mercy for me?" What a look of joy lit up her face when she was assured that there was pardon for even her.

No sooner had she left than a young man emerged from the darkness and in a subdued tone said to the missionary, "Could you spare me a few minutes, sir?" Upon being answered in the affirmative he began his story. "My name is Mac—, I came from Spokane and am on my way to Calgary. I stopped off here for a day, and having nothing to do tonight I drifted into church. I was religiously brought up and tonight as never before I have realized how far I have drifted." Stopping, and suddenly facing the preacher, he said with great emphasis, "It must stop, and by God's help it will stop tonight." Then he unfolded

a life of sin and iniquity that was appalling. A young woman was mixed up in the tangle. After telling the story he asked with great earnestness, "What is my duty in this matter?" Your duty is very plain, replied the missionary. Go on to Calgary, get your position, send for the young woman, make her your wife, and then together lead a Christian life. "I'll do it," said he, as he grasped the proffered hand, "and you will hear from me about it. My decision is made."

Scarcely had he gone when another young man came forward and said, "May I have a talk with you, sir?" "Certainly," said the missionary, wondering when it all was going to end. Then the young man told how he had been a soldier in India for ten years, had come to Canada to make his way, had secured a good job in Calgary and had succeeded well. He had a young lady in the old land, for whom he had prepared a home in the land of his adoption. In due time he sent the money over to bring her out to be his wife. On the way across the ocean the fickle young woman had become enamored of another young man and had married upon arriving. So terribly chagrined and disappointed was he, he continued, "that I at once resigned my position in Calgary and came down here into the Kootenays with the deliberate intention of going to the devil as fast as I could go. I have drifted very far, but tonight I see a new gleam of hope and I have made up my mind that from this moment there must be a change. Once I was a real earnest Christian, but I have drifted." There and then, under the light of the half full moon, we clasped hands in solemn pledge that from that time on he would serve God.

At that moment the eleven o'clock whistle sounded out, reverberating through the mountains, which meant that the shifts in the mines were changing, and the tired preacher wended his way home, realizing as never before what a wonderful message God has given man to proclaim, and what an amazing privilege is bestowed upon the preacher of the Gospel to be able to thus touch and lift men's lives.

Montreal, Que.

The Grand Trunk Railway System with their new organization in Europe have opened a fine suite of offices at 17-19 Cockspur Street, London, one of the best locations in the city. It is just opposite Pall Mall, and the majority of the traffic from Westminster and the west end of London passes through this thoroughfare to Piccadilly, Oxford street, and the commercial sections of the Metropolis. Canadians who visit London will find these offices complete in every way, and the Company are desirous of having all visitors from the Colonies make their headquarters in London their rendezvous, where they can have their mail addressed, make appointments and do their correspondence. This is an innovation of the transportation lines of the Colonies and no doubt will be taken advantage of my many overseas visitors to the Mother Country.

The year-book of the Congregational Union of Scotland has been published, and contains its usual full information on the work of the body. A considerable proportion of the churches have large memberships. In Aberdeen, Belmont church (Rev. H. A. Inglis) has 509; Trinity (Rev. J. Adam), 950; in Dundee ward chapel (Dr. K. C. Anderson), 817; in Dunfermline, Canmore street (Rev. A. Ritchie), 501; Augustine church, Edinburgh (Rev. Henry Parnaby), 433, which is still the largest membership in Edinburgh. Congregationalism is a power in Scotland with about 36,000 members and 206 ministers, of whom 173 are pastors.

CHRIST'S GLORIOUS BODY.

(By Rev. Joseph Hamilton, Author of "The Spirit World," etc.)

Some years ago I had a friendly contest with a minister in regard to the glorious body of Christ. He was an able man, but I presume had not given much attention to this matter. At any rate he supposed that Christ wears now in Heaven the same fleshly body that he wore on earth. I can hardly think that any reader of the Dominion Presbyterian entertains such an idea. Yet possibly there may. It may not be out of place, therefore, to present the true idea in as few words as possible. Take the matter first from the view-point of Scripture; then from that of analogy.

First we have a Scripture reference to Christ's "glorious body" which seems to take for granted that it is no less than glorious. Then we have the assurance that we shall be changed into the same glorious image. Next we have the promise that "as we have become the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." Then we have the sublime description of John's vision of Christ in His glory. So radiant was the sight of Him that John fell at His feet as dead. We need not speculate here as to the mode of that vision of John. Whether it was an actual vision of the bodily eyes, or a series of pictures presented to the inner sight, we will not now discuss. The point is, that it was to all intents and purposes a real vision of the glory of the Lord.

Then we have the wonderful experience of Paul, when the ascended Christ veritably appeared to him. Christ's appearance then is described as being "above the brightness of the sun;" and it was noon day then. So glorious was the vision that Paul was smitten with blindness. Such is the appearance of the glorified Lord today.

And these visions of Paul and John are in line with Christ's earlier manifestation of Himself to certain of the old Prophets, notably Ezekiel and Daniel. That was before His stated incarnation. But I believe He had temporary, preincarnations, in which mental eyes were permitted to behold His glory, though perhaps in a modified degree. Christ was the Eternal Word, as so spoke to men in the ages past. So, both before and after His stated incarnation, men had such glimpses of His glorified body as mortal flesh could endure.

So much from the Scriptural point of view. Now take some considerations from analogy.

The fleshly body in which the Lord ascended from Mount Olivet could not live at any great distance above the surface of the earth. It would die from want of heat or want of air. But it was "changed" into the glorious body, and so fitted to dwell in the heavenly world.

This is entirely in line with the "change" that is to pass upon all living saints at the last day. They are simply to be transmuted by some species of divine chemistry which we cannot now understand, but are yet to experience.

That we cannot now understand that change is no argument that it will not occur. A caterpillar has no understanding of the mode by which it is transformed into a butterfly; but the transformation takes place. No more can we understand the mode of our final transformation; but the transformation will occur.