

and indeed there is a tendency to unconsciously develop a quasi-hypocrisy. It takes a much higher uplift to sing such a hymn as 279, by McCheyne, than the ordinary School's pupils have. I venture to say that such lines as,

"My terrors all vanished before the sweet name ;

My guilty fears banished, with boldness I came",

are far beyond the conception of even the older pupils, and so it is with many of Miss Havergal's most eloquent and beautiful hymns. Fresh young souls are not all tuned to sing the skylark's song. There is, moreover, a danger that children may get a habit of viewing religion as a piece of philosophy, and not as something to live for and die by. Let the hymns be reverential, full of praise to God, and not informing the Almighty as to religious experiences which children cannot possibly possess,—not healthy, red-blooded boys and girls. Too many of our hymns have a sadness about them that is not natural. We teach that religion is a very happy thing ; our hymns do not always show it, and children are therefore rather repelled. We should have for children's worship more hymns like 550,—*"Rejoice and be glad!"* ; and 337,—*"Jerusalem, my happy home"* ; and 24,—*"For the beauty of the earth"* ; and 17,—*"Let us, with a glad some mind"* ; and that 593,—*"There is a happy land"*, which floats about the dawn of early life like an embodied joy ; and not so many like 241,—*"Jesus, I my cross have taken"* ; or 321,—*"A few more years shall roll"*. Ordinary boys and girls do not realize the spirit and truth of such hymns, and the wise superintendent will lead them along more flowery and beautiful, and equally spiritual and true, highways of song.

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The Winning of Souls

By Rev. William Patterson, D.D.

General Assembly's Evangelist

III. WHAT AN INVITATION TO CHURCH DID

Among the thousands who filled every part of the great church, there was one face which frequently caught the eye of the speaker during the service. The owner of

this face was a man who was physically far above the ordinary. His hair was white with the weight of the years, and his face indicated intellect, culture and thoughtfulness. He seemed very much interested in the service, and at the close of the meeting the speaker hurried down to take him by the hand, as he sat near the pulpit platform. It was the first time they had ever seen each other, but their meeting was destined not to be like that of the ships which pass in the night, though the man passed out with the crowd while the minister shook hands with the other worshippers. Early the next morning I was informed that there was a gentleman in the parlor who wished to see me, and when I entered the room I recognized my friend of the previous evening.

He seemed troubled, and his face had a sad expression. With no teasing about the bush, he said, "I have come to ask you if you think that God would accept of a man who has been a sinner for sixty years and has also led others astray." I said to myself : "Here is a man seeking after God. Let me see what are the promises,—*"Those that seek . . . shall find"* ; and, *"Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* I brought before him the great and precious promises of the God who, in His love for sinful humanity, gave His only Son for their redemption. I spoke of the Son who came to seek and to save the lost, and of His power to save to the uttermost, since He has given Himself a Ransom for all. I asked him if he would accept of this Saviour as his Saviour, his Teacher, and his Lord. With tears in his eyes and a tremor in his voice, he said, "I confess to Him my sins, and I trust Him for my salvation."

He requested the privilege of confessing his Saviour by baptism in the church. A few weeks later, when he stood up to be baptized, there were many wondering eyes turned toward him,—men who knew him in politics, men who knew him in business, and men who knew him in his life of sin. His testimony was clear and sincere, his faith was childlike in its simplicity and strong in its grip of the great essential truths of salvation, so that with his whole soul he could say, "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that