

## The Secret of Success.

(The 'North-Western Advocate.')

When I was pastor of the village church in Chapel Hill, the seat of the University of North Carolina, says the Rev. Dr. Dixon, of Boston, I had been preaching with a special view to reaching the hundreds of young men who were students in the university. Many of them came to church, but only to receive with indifference what was said, or to mock. As my burden for their salvation increased, their opposition grew. Walking through the campus, I could hear my own voice in loud tones coming from behind a tree, or through an open window. Some student, with a talent for mimicry, had been to church the evening before, and he was reproducing the tones of my sermon or prayer. When he had finished, I could hear a volume of laughter from the other students.

I began to feel that I was defeated. Not one of the boys had been converted. One morning as I arose after a restless night, I decided to spend the day in a grove back of the college buildings. Most of the time I gave to reading the Bible and prayer, and my meditation between the reading and prayer was anything but pleasant. There was a horrible feeling of failure. When I returned to my room there came over me such a sense of weakness and unworthiness that I could hardly endure it. It seemed a natural thing for me to fall prostrate on the carpet and groan out my heart before God. This continued for, perhaps, half an hour; and then there came a calm, which was indescribable. I felt certain that God would save those young men and I went to church that evening expecting to see some of them converted. I had not prepared a formal sermon. I read the parable of the prodigal son and commented at random.

I felt anxious to invite a manifestation of interest, for I was sure that young men were there eager to ask for prayer, even to confess Christ. When the invitation was given a score or more of bright, manly fellows came forward to the front seat. Before the series of meetings closed over seventy-five had confessed Christ as Saviour and Lord. The present governor of North Carolina was among them and others have since become eminent in the state.

As I look back upon this experience it seems clear that the secret of it all was that I was led by the Holy Spirit to turn from dependence on myself to simple faith in God the Holy Spirit. I had been expecting that preaching would interest and save the young men. I wove into my sermons history, poetry, philosophy, scripture—everything that I thought might impress their conscience, reason or imagination. It was a transition from influence to power. I had been up to that time striving to influence the young men by argument and appeal. When I began to trust in God, the influence was not dispensed with, but God worked through it in a way worthy of himself.

### Conversion of Children.

It is said that a farmer, on being asked, 'How is it that you have such a fine flock of sheep?' replied, 'I take care of my lambs.'

The church which labors for the conversion and development of its children will be a vigorous, missionary church. The

'Advance' says, 'Out of the seventy-one corporate members of the American Board of Missions, nineteen were converted at so early an age that they were unable to remember it, while thirty-four were led to Jesus before fourteen years of age.'

Spurgeon, referring to the incident of the disciples rebuking the mothers who brought young children to Jesus, says: 'It must be a great sin to hinder anyone from coming to Christ. Notice how Jesus condemned this sin. He was much displeased. Mark x., 13-16. He was not often displeased, certainly he was not often much displeased, and when he was, we may be sure the cause was a serious one. He was much displeased at these children being pushed away because it was contrary to the spirit of love and did wrong to the mothers who brought their children out of respect to him, expecting that the benediction of God was in his touch. After condemning the disciples, Jesus took the little ones in his arms and blessed them. All his life he received everyone who came to him.'

Pastor Noel held some revival meetings for children in his church in London. At the second meeting he requested those children who had been converted in the first meeting to go into a side room. Two hundred and fifty followed him, and after a close examination by a number of ministers they all were permitted to go to the platform and testify for Christ. One year afterward these same children were still true to their convictions. One of them was burned to death and sang amid her sufferings,—

'Jesus take this heart of mine,  
Make it pure and wholly Thine;  
Thou hast bled and died for me,  
I will henceforth live for Thee.'

Every child should be a member of the church before he is twelve years old. Then if he lives, there are years of usefulness before him and there are special promises of long life for those who love and trust God. Many children have undoubtedly dropped into their graves who, if they had been properly taught and trained, would be living to-day.—'Morning Star.'

### Love in Search of a Word.

The difficulties of missionary pioneer work, especially in learning languages and reducing them to writing, were recently described in a thrilling manner by Willis K. Hotchkiss, an American missionary of the Society of Friends, who has just returned to his work in Central Africa among the Wakamba. He first built his own house assisted by two coast men, as the tribe was hostile and suspicious. Gradually they became friendly and he began to learn their language. Willis Hotchkiss said in a missionary address in England:

'The first word I secured was "Ni-chau," meaning "What is it?" Day and night I pestered every man I met with that question. In the brick-yard muddy hands and pencil added to muddy paper the swelling list of words. In the garden, hoe and spade were dropped for pencil and notebook, as some new word dropped from the lips of the black fellows at my side. So it went through the day with its varied duties, and then at night, by candle light, the day's treasures were gathered up, classified, and made ready for their blessed service. For two years and a half I search-

ed for the word "Saviour." As each day and week and month passed by, it grew bigger with meaning in the light of the frightful need which faced me—a need which I knew I could meet if I could bring that word to bear upon it, but before which I was powerless until that golden key was discovered. But it finally came, and the toil of years was recompensed. Around the evening camp-fire I sat with my men, listening to their stories and watching eagerly for the coveted word. Finally my head man, Kikuvi, launched upon a tale which I hoped would bring it. He told how Mr. Krieger had some months before been attacked by a lion and badly wounded, and how he had been rescued. But to my great disappointment he did not drop the concrete word for which I was looking. Sick at heart, I was about to turn away, when in a modest way he turned to me, saying, "Bwana nukuthaniwa na Kikuvi" (the master was saved by Kikuvi). I could have shouted for joy, for having the verb I could easily make the noun; but to prove it beyond the shadow of a doubt, I said, "Ukuthanie Bwana?" (you saved the master?) and he replied, "Yes." "Why, Kikuvi," said I, "this is the word I have been wanting you to give me all these 'moons,' because I wanted to tell you that Yesu died to Ku—," I got no further. The black face lit up, as in the lurid light of the camp-fire he turned upon me, exclaiming, "Master! I see it now! I understand! This is what you have been trying to tell us all these moons, that Yesu died to save us from the power of sin!" Never did sweeter word fall from mortal lips than that word "Saviour" as it fell from the lips of that black savage in Central Africa.—'The Bombay Guardian.'

### Alphabetical Reinforcements

- A did it—Aided with his presence.
  - B did it—Backed up the leader.
  - C did it—Came to time.
  - D did it—Didn't refuse.
  - E did it—Everlastingly at it.
  - F did it—Faithful to the end.
  - G did it—Gave heed.
  - H did it—Hoped all things.
  - I did it—Ignored slights.
  - J did it—Joined in every time.
  - K did it—Kept right on.
  - L did it—Led in every good work.
  - M did it—Met his engagements.
  - N did it—Never gave up.
  - O did it—Offered to help.
  - P did it—Prayed without ceasing.
  - Q did it—Quenched not the Spirit.
  - R did it—Repented and went.
  - S did it—Stood by.
  - T did it—Took hold and lifted.
  - U did it—Used tact.
  - V did it—Volunteered his services.
  - W did it—Worked night and day.
  - X did it—Exchanged smiles.
  - Z did it—Zealous of good works.
- The Rev. J. W. Weddell, in 'Baptist Union.'

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