

WANTED, A HUNDRED MEN.

Wanted, a hundred men,
A hundred of the best,
From college, mart, or home,
Roused by the great behest—
"Evangelize the world."
The earnest and the brave
Will surely heed the call
Of Him who lives to save!

Wanted, a hundred men,
At the highest wage e'er given:
Noblest conquest on earth,
Star-like glory in heaven;
Friendship sweetest and best,
With incarnate, self-giving Love;
Joy of chasing the gloom below
And brightening the light above.

Wanted, a hundred men
From churches a hundred score;
Strange if the call should fail
To bring out a hundred more;
For the debt is more than twice
What a hundred lives can pay,
And the Church of the living God
Is but half awake to-day.

Wanted, a hundred men,
In the power of grace Divine,
Ready to claim the danger posts
Of the apostolic line;
To live or die for Africa
In the ranks of Moffat's band;
Or with Griffith John to plant life's tree
In the wastes of the Flowery Land.

Wanted, a hundred men!
What heart will not reply,
"To serve Thee abroad or at home,
Lord Jesus, here am I;
Me and my own I lay
Devoted at thy feet;
Use all in thy great cause
As wisest love sees meet."
—*Missionary Chronicle.*

MR. HENRY TOYE,

OF THE HOME FOR THE FATHERLESS, GREENWICH.

Mr. Henry Toye is in his seventieth year; he was born at Clifton in 1820. In Bristol he served his apprenticeship to the handicraft of shipwright. The wonderful manner in which he has been able to utilize the deft skill thus acquired will be seen later on. Attracted by the promise of work in the Deptford dock-yard he came to the metropolis, and in Greenwich he made his home. The influence of early moral training served to make his life singularly pure and upright, but at the age of twenty-eight he came under the gracious and conscious influence of the cross of Jesus Christ. When passing the Congregational church in Greenwich-road he was attracted by a name familiar to him—Rev. William Lucy, late of Bristol, but then pastor of that congregation. It was an arrow from Mr. Lucy's quiver, winged by the Divine Spirit, that found its way into Mr. Toye's heart. He soon discovered that the new life meant laboring for others. He employed his leisure time in visiting the poor and the suffering; he taught in the Sunday-school; as opportunity offered, he was ever ready to proclaim the message of salvation.

A visit to Bristol in 1850 was of considerable importance to him. He had met with a friendless orphan child, and found that Mr. George Muller would receive it into his Home at Ashley Down. Thither he took the little one, and had the pleasure of meeting with that large-hearted man. He received from Mr. Muller one of his little books, which had for its subject, the duty of believers to exercise faith in the Divine government in all matters of daily life, and the privilege of seeking continual guidance. The book influenced Mr. Toye so much that he separated himself from the trade societies of which he was a member. He was also led to give up Government employment, as he could not believe that building ships of war was seemly work for a follower of Christ.

It is not necessary here to tell how the Thames was once the home of a thriving ship-building industry, or how competition carried the work elsewhere, and grass grew upon the once busy streets of Millwall. The suffering of the population in that locality became intense, and thither Mr. Toye was led in January 1867 to inquire into details of destitution, and to be an almoner of many friends who were anxious to relieve the starving population. He soon found his hands full of work. Children roamed about the streets, and for these he

opened schools. This was before the days of School Boards. Sewing classes were formed for the girls; and to employ men out of work Mr. Toye went into business as a wood-chopper.

Two years were spent in these efforts, and 1869 found him preparing to accept heavier responsibilities. When parents died and left a family uncared for, Mr. Toye made it his business to place the orphans in sheltering institutions; but, alas! his candidates were more numerous than were the openings for them. At this period he had ten orphans, absolutely friendless, under his eye, not knowing where to find homes for them. He had it in his mind to care for them himself, if he could only see how. His own words will best explain his position, and show the source whence came the needed help:—

I was waiting upon the Lord to provide me with the means for procuring bedsteads and bedding. One day, whilst pacing an empty room in this destitute district, this verse from Hebrews xiii. was applied with much power to my heart: "Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

At first I felt at a loss to understand what reference this passage could have to the subject upon which I had been meditating, inasmuch as I was not only without money, but as it seemed to me without means of any description towards carrying out the desire of my heart. After pondering, it appeared to me that it was the Lord's will to signify by this text that I should make the required bedsteads out of some timber he had already given me; so at once I set to work to construct cots, and now, whilst writing, there are twenty-seven made by my own hands.

But what about the bedding? Still the Scripture said, "Be content with such things as ye have." What else could this mean but to utilise what lay closest to his hand? That was flour sacking which he had shaped for his purpose. He had a goodly supply of newspapers in store. He found work for the little ones in tearing these into small pieces, and so the mattresses were supplied. Sheets, blankets, and quilts arrived and the place was furnished. On September 3, 1869, the "Home for the Fatherless" received its first occupants. The house for girls was fitted for twenty-two inmates, and the boys', next door, for sixteen. He wrote at this period:—

If the Lord in his rich grace supply the means, I propose gradually to increase the number, as there are hundreds of poor fatherless ones in London alone.

Thus was he led into the work in which he has since been engaged, and in connection with which he has passed through many a strange experience. He has known what it is to be exalted, and what it is to be abased; yet never once has he parted from that sheet-anchor given to him that memorable day, from Hebrews—"I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." Is there in all Scripture a more emphatic and unqualified promise? In the Greek it contains no fewer than five negatives, and it might well be rendered thus:—"I will never leave thee, no; neither will I forsake thee; no, never."

It was Mr. Toye's resolve to honor God by accepting this text as a personal covenant. Accordingly, during all these years, he has never directly sought for aid of any sort for his large family or himself from any human source. To God alone has he made known his need, and it is with a face full of joy that he testifies:—"Faithful is he that hath promised."

He did not long remain on the northern side of the Thames. In many respects the place was unsuitable. He was led to secure premises in Lewisham-road, Greenwich; and there for the past twenty years he and his large family have found a home. As the numbers increased he was obliged to add house to house; until to-day he has under his care an establishment where over a hundred and twenty children are comfortably housed, educated, and trained. Some six hundred children in all have had the advantage of his training, and are now, under God, a credit to themselves and to Mr. Toye.

Space will not permit our going into detail regarding Mr. Toye's personal labors in things material. Those who visit the

home, however, will be surprised to see what an old man with a willing heart and a ready hand has done. Not merely the children's cots, but the walls and roof of his fine schoolrooms of two stories, 75 feet by 51 feet, were built and constructed by his own hands. He laid the floors and lined the walls, the only hindrance being that sometimes an empty treasury caused the builder and "clerk of works" to take a rest. But the great master of intermediaries always caused the needed supplies to be forthcoming. The writer has heard him say:—

Look at my children, how healthy they are. Never once have we missed a meal; though very often we had taken breakfast without the slightest idea of where the dinner was to come from. But it always has come. We have spread the cloth for tea not having the needed bread; but it came just in the nick of time—cut up and buttered.

It is Mr. Toye's custom to publish annually "an account of the Lord's dealings" with him. Its pages indicate the life he leads—a life of simple dependence on his Heavenly Father. It shows how sometimes he has been sorely tried, and how the door of deliverance was opened. This series of "accounts" forms indeed a charming chapter in the history of faith. In the latest issue he writes:—

Many indeed have been the trials of faith, but great have been the deliverances wrought. Many, many times have I had to stand still and see the salvation of God; but I say to the praise of his name I have not waited for him in vain. We have often been brought to the last penny, with the store-room nearly empty and coal cellars swept up. Sometimes the supplies have come meal by meal, yet we have not had to go without food, nor without a fire when needed. The longer I go on in this simple pathway of faith, the greater is my joy; to be brought to the last penny and the last loaf, and then to see the hand of him who upholds all things by his mighty power, and without whose knowledge not a sparrow falls to the ground, is worth having the faith tested. If the store-room and coal-cellars were always full, and the purse well furnished, there would be little need for faith—certainly not for its exercise.

Thus it is that this dear servant of the Lord and of his little ones is kept day by day. Thus it is that the great father watches over the fatherless, and those who love to honor and magnify his name. Long may Mr. Toye live to be a channel of blessing to destitute children and a practical preacher of simple faith in the mighty love and unchanging faithfulness of God.—*The Christian.*

THE COMMISSIONERS of the Lancashire lunatic asylums state in their last annual report that "although drunkards are not generally regarded as insane, it is a question whether the habitual tippler might not with advantage be considered an irresponsible being, and treated as such." They point to the fact that in not a few cases the only cause that can be detected for a patient's insanity is the intemperance of one or both parents.

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THE PRIZE STORIES.

**THE MARITIME PROVINCES AGAIN
CARRY OFF HIGHEST HONORS.**

MISS SAUNDERS, OF LAWRENCETOWN, N. S., RECEIVES THE FIRST PRIZE, AND GEORGE H. WISELEY, OF ST. ANDREW'S N. B., IS RANKED SECOND BY THE MARQUIS OF DUFFERIN AND AVA.

This is the letter of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava, who has kindly read the stories which received the Province prizes on the recommendations of the Province judges, and who has awarded the Canada prize:—

CLANDEBOYE, Co. Down, Ireland, Sept. 11, 1891.
GENTLEMEN,—I have now the pleasure of returning you the manuscript tales which you submitted for my examination. From them I have selected what appears to me to be the two best. I should be inclined to give the first place to "Retribution," and the second to "A Story of the Loyalist Times." Both are well told stories, but "Retribution" appears to me the more artistic composition of the two, though I doubt whether "Retribution" is exactly a good title to have chosen for it.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
DUFFERIN AND AVA.

The story entitled "Retribution," which carries off the Canada prize, was written by Miss E. Maude I. Saunders, a pupil of Lawrencetown School, Annapolis County, Nova Scotia. Miss Saunders, it will be remembered, was equally fortunate last year.

"A Story of the Loyalist Times," which the Marquis of Dufferin also mentions, was written by Master George H. Wiseley, a pupil of the Charlotte County Grammar School, St. Andrew's, Charlotte County, N. B.

Both are excellent stories and will appear with others in the *Witness* shortly.

By the selection of Miss Saunders as the winner of the Canada prize, Master Percy L. Saunders, who, by the way, is two years older than the Canada prize winner, having attained to seventeen years, becomes entitled to the Province prize, and Master Aubrey W. Fullerton, of Round Hill School, in the same county, carries off the County prize. Master Fullerton is thirteen years old and is highly to be commended for his success.

Now that these stories have been returned and the prizes awarded, the illustrations sent with some of them will be submitted to the judges and the prizes awarded them.

We have in prospect another competition for the schools, whereby the scholars of our Canadian schools will be stimulated to do their utmost.

The School and Province prizes have all been sent out. Miss Saunders will receive her gold watch this week. The County prize, which will be a volume of stories selected from those published, as well as from amongst those sent in for the last competition, is in preparation, and will be sent out as soon as printed, and the medals will reach their destination this week.

We thank the judges, school inspectors, teachers, scholars, and also the trustees and parents who have co-operated with us in making this competition the great success it has been.

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