

A TESTIMONY

By H. M. McClusky.

"When he ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

"Unto each one of us was the grace given according to the measure of the gift of Christ."

"There are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. . . . But to each one is given the manifestation of the spirit to profit withal." The mission of the differing gifts is "for the perfecting of the saints, unto the work of ministering, unto the building up of the body of Christ"—which is the Church.

Faith Percival had a great longing to make known God's love revealed in Christ Jesus the Lord. She was not young and her home cares were increasing; new responsibilities hedged up the way, her limitations were closing in upon her without lessening the burden upon her to make known the love and power of the Christ. She had been faithful in her Church, improving there the opportunities for service, but one by one, from force of circumstances, she was impelled to pass on to others these duties—or as she regarded them, great privileges. To her the love of Christ the Saviour was so wonderful, His presence so real, delivering and keeping His own day by day just as they had need, of this divine reality she wanted to bear witness. But how could she do it with seemingly every avenue closed? The reply came to her heart: "Write the message." So improbable did this suggestion appear that she asked, "Lord, if I write what shall I do with it?" "Who will use it?" Directly there was given her the name of a religious journalist, with that of his wife; they lived in her own town, but at this time she had only a passing acquaintance with them. She at once, under the Spirit's guidance, wrote her first article. With much fear and trembling, without consulting any person, she went to this gentleman's house and gave the article to his wife, who was very kind and cordial in her expressions of interest. In a remarkably short space of time the article appeared in a leading paper of her own Church affiliation, a surprise and pleasure to her family. Without doubt the influence of this gentleman was the prevailing power with the publisher, but was it not all of the Lord? By the close of the year the work had enlarged, so had the desires of Faith Percival. She wanted a Bible reader in India, that in the far-off land she might tell the blessed story of Jesus; but the way did not open to accomplish it. At this time a prize was offered for a leaflet along the line of her work and she promised the Lord if He would help her to write and give her the prize the money should be used for India. Her prayer was answered. After writing the leaflet she gave it to the journalist to revise, then sent it to headquarters. In due time the money was received with thanksgiving. Mr. Percival added to it enough to make the necessary amount and the work is still continued, which would have been impossible without the gift from the Lord. For more than six years she has been working with an ever widening influence. One book has been published in which in all of its details she was as unmistakably led of the Spirit as in the beginning. Not that there were no discouragements, for Satan never allows a work of this kind to go on unhindered; but she was relying on the promises of God and she had the fullest assurance that "with Him nothing is impossible." She has another book nearly ready for the press, and still a larger work under consideration and prayer, besides the articles for her papers. Though not physically strong, she is a persistent student of God's word and does much reading along the lines of her special calling, telling the

would have us do, and where He would have us be. We work, again, at cross-purposes with God when we choose an occupation or business for which, by nature, we are not fitted. In such a case we cannot hope to succeed, because we are not where God would have us be; we have chosen an occupation or profession for which we have not the necessary taste or talent. It is a case of the round peg in the square table. It is only when we chose that occupation for which we, by nature and education, are fitted, for which we have a natural taste or bias, that we can expect to achieve the highest kind of success, for then we are assured that we are working in harmony with God's will, and sooner or later, if we persevere in our efforts, success shall crown our endeavors.

We learn, once more, from the tower of Babel, that we cannot by our good works or unaided efforts reach Heaven. These people formed the vainglorious design of seeking, by their own efforts, to reach heaven. They may have imagined in their primitive ignorance that the deep blue sky above, over-reaching the earth—so bright with twinkling stars by night—so calm and beautiful by day—was the place where Heaven was, and formed the design to reach it. But, as they seen learned, it was to attempt the impossible, their presumptuous spirit was rebuked, their efforts were baffled and they were obliged to abandon the task as hopeless; and so now, as then, there are some people who seek to reach Heaven by their own good works or unaided efforts. They rely upon their morality, and are frequently found picking out flaws in their neighbors' character, leaving the impression, by the way they speak and act, that they are as good, if not better, than he, although a professing church-member and attending church every Sunday with the utmost regularity. Now, while it is true that the Church cannot save us, and while we may live good moral lives without attending church or professing Christ. Yet, if we are God's children we certainly shall feel the desire to attend the house where he is worshipped and to make the best possible use of the means within our reach for our spiritual growth and development. Certain it is that our morality, be it ever so good, cannot save us, for our very best morality is imperfect. Judged by God's perfect law, we stand condemned. We feel that when we do our level best, we are conscious of short comings. We fall short of our ideals, and even for the morality of which some people boast, they must confess that they are indebted to the very Gospel which they are so fond of disparaging, that without Christianity and the Church to which they profess such indifference they could have neither the moral ideas nor the ideals if which they make so much. No, the loftiest and most finished tower which we, by our own unaided efforts, seek to raise can never bear the inspection of God, or enable us to reach Heaven. Jesus Christ has at an infinite cost, by the sacrifice of His own life, built the only tower by which we may climb to Holiness and Heaven. He has thus bridged over the wide chasm which separated Heaven from earth—God from man. He hath brought Heaven down to earth and united God and man. So that now, through Him, God draws near to man in reconciling love, while man draws near to God in restored fellowship. Be it ours, by simple faith, to enter this tower, and the tower shall become a temple where work shall be worship and service joy; and as step by step we climb the stairway of daily duty, we shall enjoy a foretaste of that Heaven which God has prepared for those that love Him and who, through love, have become like Him.—Constable, N.Y.

Commencement is the bridge between the old life and the new.

He who would resist temptation should give heed to the voice of the Psalmist: "Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away."

A man like Paul may use a dungeon to the glory of God and the good of the world, and a Bunyan may there see visions and dream dreams; but about the worst use that can be made of a boy is to throw him into prison.

story of God's love to a lost world. And she says, "The more I study, the more wonderful it all seems." Jesus said: "When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He shall guide you into all the truth. . . . He shall glorify Me, for He shall take of Mine and shall declare it unto you."

Holland Patent, N.Y.

ENDEAVOR CONVENTION

From the quarterly report of the progress of the Christian Endeavor movement, by Rev. Francis E. Clark, president of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, September 13, 1906.

To the Trustees of the United Society.

Gentlemen,—My report for this quarter may well be a brief one, so far as my personal connection with the cause has been concerned, for it covers a period of illness during which I have been laid aside almost entirely from my usual work until within the last two or three weeks. But, though I can report but little that I have been able to accomplish, I can record with joy the recent unexampled progress of the Christian Endeavor movement throughout the world. The great convention at Baltimore is one proof of this. From many eye-witnesses and a multitude of correspondents I have had glowing reports of it. Echoes are now coming back from different parts of the world, and the enthusiasm, spiritual power, and uplift of this convention evidently made a deep impression upon all. Better than all, it told of great growth and progress made in our own land.

Nor has this been the only notable event, by any means, in the recent months of Christian Endeavor. During these months the most memorable foreign Christian Endeavor conventions ever held have assembled, beginning with a most excellent convention in Japan, undisturbed by wars or rumors of wars. This meeting was followed by a remarkable All-China convention in Ningpo. In some respects, we are told, this was the most notable religious meeting ever held in China. Something like eighty foreign missionaries were present, and the highest official dignitaries of the province welcomed the foreigners, a thing hitherto unheard-of of Chinese annals. The whole influence of the meeting was most helpful to the cause of Christianity and Christian Endeavor. A little later came the British National convention at Birmingham, which equalled in enthusiasm and numbers the great meetings that have gone before it, and our British friends are not behind us in their Christian Endeavor gatherings.

Two most important meetings have been held in South Africa—one in Durban by the South African Union, which is largely composed of English societies; and another in Great Reinet by the Dutch Reformed Union, composed altogether of the Dutch societies. The growth of this last union has been very remarkable, there having been an increase of nearly one hundred per cent within less than twelve months, while the membership in the 249 societies of Dutch churches was found to be nearly 9,000 at the last convention. A field secretary for these societies has been obtained, and Secretary Stackman is also doing an admirable work among the English societies.

The best convention that Brazil has ever held was the one that assembled in the spring, and the work is spreading from that country to other parts of South America.

Perhaps the most notable convention of the year, in some respects, was the All-European gathering held in Berlin, while the hosts of America were gathered in Baltimore. No such company of Christian Endeavorers ever came together before on the continent of Europe, representing every nation of the continent, and it is doubtful if any such interdenominational and international religious convention was ever held within the borders of Europe. Some reports place the numbers at the great praise service as high as ten thousand. Emperor William was represented by his nephew, and it is said, would have been present himself had he been in Berlin. The evangelistic spirit was as warm and earnest as in Baltimore, and the influence of the convention will be vast and widespread, and will prepare the way, doubtless, for a still greater World's Convention in Geneva next July.