

Evangelistic.

It was His Business.

What one man, who scarcely ever had the privilege of addressing a large audience, could do for Christ is illustrated in the case of John Vassar, the book agent.

It is related of him that on one occasion he stepped into the parlor of what was then the most prominent hotel of New York city. A young woman of fashion was waiting there to meet her husband with whom she had an appointment. Though a stranger, John Vassar spoke to her so kindly and wisely that she was profoundly moved. The old man passed on and left her forever. Her husband came in a moment later and found her in tears. He asked the cause of her agitation. She replied, "There has been the strangest old man you ever saw in here talking to me about my soul." Her husband said, "Why did you not tell the old fool to mind his own business?" She replied, "O husband, if you had been here you would have thought it was his business."

A man who is dead in earnest cannot fail to make an impression for good, if his zeal is governed by common sense, as it was in the case of John Vassar.

Fishing Without Bait.

He sat on a log by the river-side, patiently at first, and then, as after another of his fellow-fishermen pulled up a "pounder," his impatience captured him, and out came line and hook with a vigorous jerk and a feeling of disgust. Then a man over on a rock remarked: "You can't catch fish without bait."

Sure enough, his hook was bare, the sharp jagged point standing out warningly to any fish that became too familiar. The trouble was, he had lost his bait! Fifteen minutes before he had spent quite a time artistically adjusting a morsel on his hook, and, with high hopes and great faith, cast it into the water. For a while his cork bobbed surprisingly. In truth, there were several hungry fellows nibbling away at the other end. But then they nibbled all the bait away without accommodating the man on the bank. Then, after the last fragment had been stripped off, they deserted it entirely. Fish soon find out that a hook is bare. A good fisherman will occasionally lift his hook from the water just to see how the bait is getting along.

A young man entered the ministry. He was to be a fisher of men; he was to catch men for Christ, and it must be said that he started well. His spirit was genuine; his hook was well baited with the gospel—a splendid gospel—and when he settled himself after his first conference, he faithfully cast a line. Many a poor fellow came near him, and actually tasted of his bait, but you know fish do not swallow a hook immediately. He had not fished half the year before even the nibbling ceased, and he sat disconsolately among his people. He did not

know that his bait was gone. He wondered how the Baptist fisher caught such fine fellows; and the Presbyterian angler had quite a bunch, while he did nothing but patiently wait.

The trouble was, he failed to keep his hook baited. In some manner—either in his study or among his people—he had lost the Spirit. That was the sole difficulty. He did not think to examine his hook; he failed to understand that it took "watching and praying" to succeed. As a consequence, he failed. How easily can one lose the Spirit! Let it be cast for any time among the children of the world, and, unless there be a guardian care, it will be taken away.

It will pay any "fisher of men" to occasionally examine his hook.—*Epworth Herald*.

Example of Andrew.

More than any of the apostles besides, Andrew is credited with introducing others to Jesus. "And he brought him to Jesus" is the model which remains in all evangelistic work, admirable still. To talk to an inquiring soul is one thing; that perhaps Andrew could not do. To bring him to Jesus is quite another; that certainly Andrew did. So also in an after scene, Andrew brings to the Lord the boy with the loaves and fishes, and later yet, the Greeks who "would see Jesus."

A fine trait in Andrew's course is that he did good work before he had been formally set apart as an apostle. Weeks and even months intervened between the time when Jesus first invited Andrew to his home, and the final and decisive call to follow him. In the interval our Lord worked his first miracle, travelled to Jerusalem, had his memorable interview with Nicodemus and conversation with the woman of Samaria, spent the Sabbath in Nazareth, which broke off so abruptly with the attack on his life, and then came down to Capernaum, where he found these first disciples fishing. All this time Andrew was following his vocation rather than dreaming of his destiny. But already he had found his own brother and brought him to Jesus. And no doubt he had done much more of the same sort.—*Presbyterian Review*.

A Business of Winning Souls.

During the revival there cannot be too much wise work done outside of public meetings—the house-to-house visitations, business place invitations, the planting of the good seed and scattering the revival spirit among all classes of people. This is important if the church expects to make a business of winning souls to God. To win souls we must work as though we felt it the greatest business God ever put into the hands of men. Many shrink from his personal work. Those whose words and influence would be most effective are often most reluctant to do it. The pastor may meet his personal workers and give them training how they should go about this work. Many happy suggestions about soul-winning can thus be given by the pastor. The true general must consult his staff. It is well for the

pastor to suggest to not argue with the unrepenting. It is safe to exhort, and even urge, them to become Christians, and to quote scripture to answer objections, but, as far as possible, avoid argument. Argument has its place, but this is not the best time. He should urge personal workers to be kind under all circumstances. It is well to inquire whether one has any objection to talk about his soul and its eternal interests. The pastor should plan to equip his workers with certain strong passages of scripture. There is nothing like the plain Word of God to stir up the rebelling heart. It is one office of the Holy Spirit to convict through the presented Word. Have passages committed to memory, and know where to find them. Have your Bible with you, and ask the unconverted to turn to the scripture and read for himself, then you emphasize its great truth and apply.—*Rev. W. W. Carlton*.

Too Much to Do?

Now and then a Christian drops out of the ranks and sits under the juniper-tree to give vent to the remarkable complaint that there is too much to do! Who ever heard of a farmer complaining that his fields were too large and that the field that waited the sickle was too fruitful? "Ah! but a large harvest means a large return to him," you say. My brother, is that less true of the Lord's work and workers? If you and I valued souls as we ought to value them, if we believed the promises of God as it is our privilege to believe them, our hearts would beat with joyful enthusiasm when we looked on the field already white unto the harvest.—*Lookout*.

Awake!

While the theologians are philosophizing and philosophizing, sinners are going down to hell. Oh, reader, let us awake! Awake! The time for work will soon be over! The time for rescue will soon be past! Loved ones will be forever lost if we do not do our duty! They will be beyond rescue, beyond the life-line or life-boat! God help us to come up to our privilege and duty and shine forth as true lights in the world, holding forth the promise of eternal life, exhorting and warning with all long-suffering with the sinner, "that he come and be reconciled to God."—*Rev. L. Thomas*.

Man-to-Man Effort.

We need to return to the common-sense methods of the gospel. We have reversed Christ's order. He says "Go," we say "Come." Jesus was an itinerant preacher, a way-side preacher. He didn't go to the meeting-house and wait for the people to come to him at regular intervals. He went after them. He did not wait for the crowd to assemble. He began preaching, just as it happened, to the few or many, and then the multitudes followed him. If every Christian church could enlist ten per cent. of its members in active, honest, spiritual work for the salvation of souls, we should have such a revival of the work of God as has never been witnessed.—*Christian Uplook*.