

The Home Mission Journal.

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All communications, except money remittances, are to be addressed to

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Paul Grandal's Charge.

BY HOPE DARING.

CHAPTER X.

He was deeply agitated but attempted to hide it under a show of bravado.

"Is this a new plan to put a stop to my business?" he asked sneeringly. "You meeting folks have tried almost every other dodge. Can't this young parson! I was a fool to give up the mortgage! I bled that old idiot Shedd well though! I made him pay me a hundred dollars extra."

"I am not thinking of your business just now," she said wearily. "I am thinking of your soul, and the Christ whom you have rejected."

He did not reply. His eyes were fixed upon the mass of gleaming coals in the grate. He feared death stronger than that he was. The power that enabled this slender woman to so fearlessly face its certain nearness, it could not be of earth. What should she fear—she with her blameless life and her many good deeds? As for him—

He stopped abruptly and turned to speak to her. She was gone! She had said all she could say, then, with rare tact, she had left him.

A sign of relief broke from his lips, to be followed a moment later by a troubled exclamation. The thoughts she had aroused could not be set aside at will. He moved restlessly around the room for a time, then hurried away to the saloon, hoping there to throw the haunting memories.

Three days went by. There had been some talk of closing the meetings, but Paul could not bring himself to do it. The harvest had been great; his heart yearned after those who were still unsaved.

On the evening of the third day after Mrs. West's interview with Silas French, Lucie was walking to the church with her father.

"Papa, why are you not a Christian?" she asked, timidly.

The question startled him. Why was he not? He could hardly say—

"You and your mother are good enough for me," he began playfully; but she stopped him.

"Don't say that, please don't, papa. I wish I could be good for you, or good enough so you could see Christ reflected in my life."

His arm trembled under the light touch of her hand. Did she care so much—this brave little daughter, whose steady lips and grieved eyes had so made his heart ache? She was changed now. Strength and a joy in life had come back to her.

In silence they walked on until the church was reached. As they were going up the steps, Lucie said, softly,

"I am praying for you, papa."

Just as the services were about to begin, Silas French entered the door and slowly advanced up the aisle. It was Hiram Kent who hurried forward and led the saloon-keeper to a seat well up in front.

Paul's sermon was a tender, thoughtful one. Life's responsibilities and God's love were the themes upon which he lingered, and tears coursed down many cheeks when the young minister begged his hearers to no longer refuse mercy and peace.

His voice had not died away when Silas French rose and began to speak.

"Neighbors, you all know how of sinners I am the greatest. I don't know as there can be forgiveness for me, but God knows my heart," and he strode forward and knelt at the altar.

Before a word could be said, Deacon Hardy sprang to his feet.

"May God forgive me for my sins!" he cried, his old face working pitifully. "Brethren, I too, am willing to kneel and ask my Saviour to forgive me for the wrong I have done the faithful few who have labored for Him here."

Soon another came forward, an erect, stalwart man, still in the prime of life. It was Lucie's father.

They knelt there together—the hardened sinner, the erring Christian, and the moral man—all asking the Son of God for pardon and help. No, it was not strange. The work of grace was being done in answer to the tears and prayers of those who had pledged themselves to the service of the Lord.

On the morrow all the liquor in Silas French's saloon was emptied into the street. It was a glad day for Danesville. Public sentiment was roused now, and another saloon would not be tolerated.

The good work went on for a week longer. Over one hundred persons had sought and found Christ. Besides this; the church was all alive with an earnest enthusiasm.

"Yes, you are saved as a church," the presiding elder said, one Sunday morning soon after, when he occupied the pulpit, "and I've noticed when a church is safe, the members individually are not in danger. Under God's blessing, you owe much to your minister, and Danesville has done much for him."

Paul knew Mr. Carveth was right. Under more favorable circumstances, it is doubtful if he would ever have attained to his present spiritual condition. Sometimes the way may be dark, but wherever God leads all will be well.

Two years passed away. Paul is still at Danesville, although he has had several opportunities of exchanging his work there for something the world would call better. "All in good time," is his reply to these suggestions.

Marion West went home to her reward ere that first summer waned. She is not forgotten. By none is the gentle woman's memory more revered than by Silas French.

He is indeed, a changed man. The old saloon is a reading-room and a gymnasium now. The two men who gave their manhood's pride to the world—Amos Shedd and Silas French—are striving, with time and money, to help the youth of their native village. They often warn the boys to beware of their own grievous mistake.

"It's a bad thing, my lad," Amos Shedd would say, "not to commence until you are sixty to do a life's work. God blesses me daily, but I wish I had begun to do His will when I was like you."

Lucie is still a teacher. If the routine of the schoolroom grows a little tiresome, she whispers Paul's own words, all in good time. So she waits, knowing that if the life which stretches so fair before her is God's will, he will make it plain.

* * *

The work of the Lord lies all about us. Truly "the harvest is great and the laborers are few," but those who enter into the toils of his vineyard find therein a joy and delight unspeakable.

[THE END.]

Quarterly Meeting.

The Albert county Quarterly Meeting met at Waterside, on September 3rd. This is the 2nd Harvey church, and is ministered to by Rev. F. N. Atkinson in connection with the Alma church. Waterside is very beautiful in the summer, commanding a grand view of the Bay of Fundy and the coast of Nova Scotia. The people are generally quite wealthy, and are given to hospitality.

This was a joint meeting between the Albert and Westmorland county Quarterlies. We had six of the seven pastors located in this county present, and Revs. B. H. Thomas, J. W. Brown, Ph. D., and W. H. Smith (lic) from Westmorland. Rev. H. H. Saunders was elected president, and F. D. Davidson secretary and treasurer for the ensuing year. Reports from the churches showed sixty-one baptized since last meeting, 2nd and third Elgin, under the leadership of Pastor Thorne, had purchased a parsonage and

Hopewell was making a move in the same direction. We are sorry that Hillsboro is pastorless at the present time. Dr. Brown had a map of Albert and Westmorland counties that was studied by the brethren with great interest in reference to our Home Mission work. W. H. Smith (lic), who is spending his vacation at Port Elgin and surrounding country, gave the Quarterly a full description of that field and it was unanimously resolved to urge the Home Mission Board to put a strong man on that whole field at once. A collection of \$12.50 was taken up to assist the brethren at Port Elgin with their debt. The Coverdale churches also were discussed and a man is urgently needed for that field. Rev. M. E. Fletcher preached a very touching sermon from the text: "And Abraham called the name of that place Jehowah jireh." Pastor Thomas conducted a grand social service in which the Spirit of the Lord was manifested with power. Several rose for prayers at the close. Temperance was presented by Pastor Thorne and Missions by Pastor Saunders and discussed. It was decided that the church be asked to be raised \$1.00 per member as their portion of the Century Fund. Revs. Fletcher, Addison and Davidson were appointed a committee to visit pastorless churches and urge upon them the necessity of raising their proportion of this fund. At the request of the brethren from Westmorland a similar committee was appointed for their county, consisting of Rev. B. H. Thomas, Rev. D. Hutchinson and Rev. E. B. McLatchy. We were greatly helped by our brethren from Westmorland and wished it was possible for them to always meet with us. We took them to the most beautiful spot in the county but hope at some future day that a meeting may be arranged at some more central point, Hopewell Cape, for instance. All pronounced this one of the most profitable sessions that our Quarterly had ever held. The Sunday School Convention opened Wednesday afternoon and closed after a platform meeting that evening.

F. D. DAVIDSON, Sec'y.-Treas.

Religious News.

A Chinaman was baptized BRISSELS STREET. Sunday night, the first in the Convention. In the Sabbath School there are twenty-five names enrolled in the Chinese department which is under the efficient superintendency of Mrs. J. N. Golding. H. F. W.

TABERNACLE, ST. JOHN. Baptized two believers in Christ on Sept. 1st. Will close my work at the Tabernacle on Sept. 15th. Expect to leave for Chicago shortly after to take a course of study at the Divinity School. The church has not yet settled on a pastor.

PERRY STACKHOUSE.

Of late our hearts have been made glad by those that have heard the Word and obeyed it. One was baptized at Forest Glen, and at Andover two followed their Saviour in baptism, and on August 25th five united with Andover Baptist church, three by letter and two by baptism. R. W. DEMMINGS.

September 7.

ST. ANDREWS. We cannot report additions to the churches on this field, but we are not without encouragement. The Sunday services are attended by fairly good and very attentive congregations. Prayer meetings often full of power. Sabbath schools are in a prosperous condition. One thing that greatly helps and encourages us is the interest taken in us and the sympathy shown us by the people in the churches. This interest in us does not merely express itself in words and good wishes, but is proved by kind acts until we wonder what the people see in us to show us so much consideration.

C. CURRIE.

The work of the Lord is still going on most blessedly in this place. August 28th we UNION CORNER, CARLETON CO.,