



Railroading with Christ.

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CHAPTER VIII.

REBUILDING A REPUTATION.

**J**OE BENTON found it a very slow and difficult matter, after his discharge from the railroad, to work back into a position of even moderate respectability and profit. The times were hard, and some men's hearts seemed hard, too. Able-bodied men stood in groups idling on the street corners, or worked for pittance which even a boy would despise in ordinary times. All lines of business seemed to be at a standstill, except the liquor trade. Yet, even in these hard times, the saloons did a rushing business, and, by some strange and sad folly of procedure, the beer pail was replenished even while the dinner pail went empty.

But Joe Benton knew better than to spend what little money he could earn with difficulty for drink. His church and Sabbath-school teaching had all been in the direction of temperance. Joe's pastor, Mr. Welton, well knew how Joe stood on these questions, and he had the highest regard for the manly fellow. He had steadily refused to believe that Joe had been guilty of carelessness at Walnut Siding, as was charged, and had tried to find him employment in various directions, yet with only partial success. Many people continued to be cruelly suspicious of Joe. More than one prominent business man refused point-blank to provide him with any employment—so difficult is it in this world for those who are once down to regain the confidence and esteem of those who are "up."

Yet Joe Benton, all undiscouraged, went quietly and persistently about the work of rebuilding his reputation. He had a humble confidence in himself and his own sincerity of purpose, and believed that in the providence of God some day a chance would offer for the retrieving of that "good name" which is better than riches. In those dark days Joe's favorite song was,

"Ask the Saviour to help you,  
Comfort, strengthen and keep you;  
He is willing to aid you,  
He will carry you through!"

Joe Benton had one very good trait of character, and that was his readiness to turn his hand to any work that offered. He had no false pride, but was willing to earn a little money by sweeping out a store, sawing wood for a neighbor, running a milk wagon, or even by going on errands "like a boy." Of course, all this was not as comfortable and agreeable as receiving regular weekly wages, but Joe tried to make the best of things, and to possess himself with patience, even when he most seemed to be the slave of circumstances.

It happened, now, one Sunday, that Mr. Welton gave out as his text, at morning service, the verse, "Do all things without murmurings and disputings." He had a way of every now and then preaching from somewhat out-of-the-way verses in the Bible—"picking the flowers by the wayside in the Bible country," he called it. Joe almost smiled when Mr. Welton gave out this particular text, which cautioned the Romans about "murmurings," since his own good mother, thinking to cure Joe, when yet a small boy, of a spirit of sulkeness which threatened to become habitual, had printed that verse on a card, and hung it up in her boy's room, so that he could see it every morning upon arising. And ever since then Joe had retained those words in recollection, and, in obedience to their counsel, had tried on many an occasion to do this or that hard thing without murmuring and disputing.

So the days and weeks went by, while Joe and

his mother struggled on, trying desperately to avoid sacrificing the house, and only providing them selves in a time with the bare necessities of life. Compelled, however, finally to part with the little home which so cozily had sheltered them for years, Mary Benton and her son sadly packed up their furniture and removed into narrower quarters in a dreary lodging house not far off. It was a sorrowful and most depressing experience, and required all the Christian faith that either possessed to enable them to bear it submissively and bravely.

But even in their deep trouble the mother and son found time and heart to think of others as badly off as themselves.

Word came one day that Joe's Uncle Silas, who lived on a small farm some distance from Orange Junction, was feeling very poorly, and would much like to see Joe—if only he could manage to come up there and make a little visit.

To be Continued.

Three Kinds Of Christians.

It seems to me we have got about three classes of Christians: the first class, in the third chapter of John, were those who got life. They believed on the Son and were saved and there they rested satisfied. They did not seek any thing higher. Then in the fourth chapter of John we come to a better class of Christians. There it was a well, living water bubbling up. There are a few of these but they are not a hundredth part of the first class. But the best class is in the seventh chapter of John: "Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." That is the kind of Christian we ought to be.

When I was a boy I used to have to pump water for the cattle. Ah, how many times I have pumped with that old right hand until it ached, and many times I used to pump when I could not get any water, and I was taught that when the pump was dry I must pour a pail of water down the pump and then I could get the water up. And that is what Christians want—a well of living water. We will have plenty of grace to spare—all we need ourselves and plenty for others. We have got into the way now of digging artesian wells better. They don't pump now to get the water, but when they dig the well they cut down through the gravel and through the clay perhaps 1,000 or 2,000 feet, not stopping when they can pump the water up, but they cut a lower strata and the water flows up abundantly of itself. And so we ought every one of us to be like artesian wells. God has got grace enough for every one of us, and if we were only full of the Holy Ghost what power we would have!

Religious News.

**MONCTON, FIRST N. B.** At the close of my sermon on Sunday morning, March 16th, I had the pleasure of baptizing eight more recent converts. Others are now awaiting the ordinance. We are truly thankful to God for the great blessing he has poured out upon us. We are now holding special services at Levisville, and already several have signified their intention to follow Christ in the ordinance which he himself appointed and conformed to. Thus far fifty-eight, since the new year, have been baptized. We have tried as a church to honor God by the preaching of the gospel, and he has honored us.

D. HUTCHINSON.

**HAMPTON, N. B.** Our special meetings were well attended and the interest good. Backsliders returned to the Father and some were converted. Not all was accomplished which we hoped for, but the church was strengthened so that we are encouraged to expect still greater victories for Christ in the future. We expect baptism soon. We are now organizing along Bible study and missionary lines so as to be in better shape as a church for our next campaign.

H. S. SHAW.

**JACKSONVILLE, CARLETON CO., N. B.** We have no increase of members to report. Yet we believe that our people are being strengthened in the divine life and built up in the

faith of God's elect. Our congregations are good and to the preached Word are attentive. I am now on my second year on this field. "The lines are fallen to me in pleasant places." I live and labor among a kind and good people. During the winter I have received donations as follows: Jacksonville, \$46; Jacksontown \$44, and from a brother at Avondale 5 bushels of good wheat, when taken to our roller mill gives flour equal to the best imported. May the Lord reward these people with spiritual enlargement. We have had a visit from Brother Adams in the interests of the 20th century fund. We all enjoyed him very much and his coming to us will produce lasting good. As this is pre-eminently the seed sowing dispensation it is ours to scatter the good seed beside all waters.

JOSEPH A. CAHILL.

**TEMPERANCE VALE, N. B.** I have been on this field for the past four months, the hardest part of the year in this section. The work has been enjoyed and I trust owned and blessed by the Master of the vineyard. I have found a people here whose hearts and homes are open to us, and many of them have sought to make us feel at home among them. At my coming the church presented the parsonage with a nice new range, costing about \$30, and also blinds costing \$4.90. These additions add much to make the little new parsonage at Temperance Vale home-like and pleasant. The various parts of the field have raised in that time about \$85, besides raising money to pay old debts. Also money is being raised to paint the parsonage, which has not yet been painted outside. In addition to this a barn is on the way. Mr. Geo. Burden of Hawkshaw has donated 1000 feet of lumber and Mr. Edwin Wiggins of Staples Settlement 5000 shingles. The frame is also either entirely offered or partly. So although the field is poor and numbers small nevertheless there is a sign of life among us. All this has been done without any picnicals or bean suppers. There has been a willing and ready mind on the part of the people and those who have given have done it cheerfully as to the Lord, so far as I know. May the hearts of our people everywhere be opened and enlarged, so the tithes may come into God's store house and then we shall be ready and we shall receive the blessing of the Lord. May the great Head of the church revive us again from our bondage is our daily prayer.

Yours in his service,

W. ARTEMAS ALLEN.

**CHIPMAN STATION.** Our services are well attended. The Young People have opened a reading room which promises to be an attraction to the railroad men and many strangers now visiting here. A good spiritual interest is discernible in all our social services.

A note from Bro. C. W. Townsend informs us that he has decided to return to New Brunswick. He thus writes:

"Mrs. Townsend and I have both made our minds to return to Canada. We have several reasons for adopting such a course. First, I am, as I think I before said, out of touch with the loose practices of Baptists on this side. I could hardly take an open communion church, as both my wife and I believe in an uncompromising Baptist attitude. I could not be happy in any such a pastorate now. Secondly, we prefer the Canadian climate. I have had cold upon cold since I have been in London, and some of the children have not been at all well. Besides too Canada is their native land and they want to go back.

Things seem to have deteriorated in England, religiously and in other ways. The drinking customs are dreadful in London. The churches do not seem to have their former grip upon the people, and too often resort to all kinds of worldly expedients to attract the masses.

Personally I have most enjoyed here the services of the strict Baptist churches. There is a