

SUNSHINE-SHADDER

Promptly as announced, Billy Cain, a tall, muscular giant with a badly scarred face, appeared in the red-brick church, and even at the close of the first service it was felt that his coming heralded a new era in the religious life of Sunshine-Shadder. To his listeners, the pithy sketches of his early life, his conversion from the ring, and the original down-pour of truths voiced in utterances which met them on their own simple level, stirred conviction to their hearts as never before.

Among the number gathered there from night to night Mrs. Pompey and Melissa were conspicuous, and although the spirit of forgiveness did not openly manifest itself, Peter Paul and Billy Cain, to whom the situation had been outlined, worked very diplomatically towards the effective closing of the breach between the one-time friends. To break through the barrier was a delicate task, yet when the last night's service hour drew near, the stranger within the gate felt that the barrier would be surmounted if preaching and prayer were at all effective.

Melissa was late that night, and tip-toed in during the first prayer. The pews were packed on either side, and when Peter Paul, who was standing near the door, ushered her into the first available space, she suddenly experienced the mortification of finding herself directly behind neighbor Pompey, who was fervently responding to the petitions solicited.

There were few eyes that night which did not rest upon the speaker, who after a few preliminary remarks launched forth in simple earnestness on the