



STOPPING THE FIGHT AT DELENA. (See page 2.)

"I HOPE SO."

BY REV. W. HASLAM, M.A.

Author of "From Death into Life."

Some years ago, when I was in Norfolk, as my two churches were small, I held meetings for evangelistic purposes in a large barn on my glebe. Having much encouragement in this effort, I went by invitation to other barns in various parts of the country, for the same object.

One gentleman remarked, "Aha! I never knew before what my grandfather built this great barn for. I see now!" With a large farm wagon for a pulpit, blocks of timber and planks across for seats, it made an excellent place for preaching.

At some of these meetings we had people of all classes; for many of the gentry from the neighborhood favored us with their presence.

One evening a lady of title from London came, and evinced a lively interest in the proceedings. When the address was over, according to London custom (at least at that time), she rose up to go away. She did not understand then about "after-meetings," or their object. At the end of the barn a young farmer, who had recently been converted to God, stood at the door, giving away tracts, and speaking to the people now and again, as he was led. Amongst other persons so addressed, he said to this lady from London, "Take a tract." She took it graciously, whereupon he asked, in his abrupt manner, "Are you saved?" She answered, "I hope so." "Haven't you got further than that?" was the reply.

The young man then went on distributing the remainder of his tracts, and speaking to others who were thronging by him.

The lady could not stop to make any remark, for she was in the stream of people flowing out. But she thought to herself, "I have been a Christian for forty years, and yet I have not satisfied that young man! I must go back."

She at once stepped aside, until the people had passed out, watching her opportunity to speak to the young man when he was at leisure. Then she went up to him and said, "You asked me a question just

now, young man, and I did not satisfy you with my answer."

"What was the question, madam?" inquired the farmer politely.

"You asked me whether I was saved."

"Well," he added, "and what was your answer?"

"I said," rejoined the lady, "I hope so."

"Haven't you got further than that?" repeated the young man.

"Yes, indeed, I have," said the lady; "I have been a Christian for forty years!"

"Then, why did you not say so? You should have said that."

"Now, suppose," continued the lady, "I ask you the question, Are you saved? what would your answer be?"

"Ah, yes, thank God I am," replied the young man, with a happy face.

"I understand now what you mean," said the lady, and, bidding the young man good evening, walked thoughtfully away.

Afterwards, when this lady met me, she said, "I know now what to say when I am challenged by you or any of your people, about my salvation—not, 'I hope so,' but, 'Yes, thank the Lord!'"

Notwithstanding this little banter, she not only ever after gave this answer for herself, but never let any one pass who said, "I hope so." She became proverbial for this, and never let the hoping kind escape.

Many people say, "I hope so," when they really mean, "I believe." Hoping has to do with something in the future—believing, with that which is present. We do not hope for a thing we have. "I hope I shall" implies that I have not yet obtained possession of the thing I desire. It also implies that the Holy Ghost, who is the author of all good desires, has been striving with me, and that I have not accepted his offer. But "I hope I shall" means nothing, and it is not only vague, but dangerous.

I know many persons who, I really believe, have accepted Christ as their salvation, but who nevertheless continue to say, "I hope so." This does not produce any happy result in their own minds, nor tend to confirm their confidence. It is neither well for themselves nor for their usefulness. On the other hand, I have known

believers who used to say, "I hope so," but who, when roused from this bad habit, became clear and decided as to their own standing; and, besides this, they have gone on to be earnest and accurate in their testimony and work for the Lord.

ARTICLE 22 of the constitution and By-laws of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen, reads as follows: "Any member dealing in or in any way connected with the sale of intoxicating liquors, shall, unless he withdraws, be expelled. Any member found guilty of drunkenness shall be suspended for the first offence. A repetition shall be punished by expulsion."

ONLY the Christian religion puts morality on its proper basis—the fear and love of God.—Johnson.

Question Corner.—No. 21.

PRIZE BIBLE QUESTIONS.

- 57. Name two men who were killed by a woman?
- 58. Where, and on what occasion do we read of horses being consecrated to the sun in Jerusalem?

NEW CLUB RATES.

The following are the NEW CLUB RATES for the MESSENGER, which are considerably reduced:

1 copy.....	\$ 0 30
10 copies to one address.....	2 25
20 " " ".....	4 40
50 " " ".....	10 50
100 " " ".....	20 00

Sample package supplied free on application

JOHN DOUGALL & SON,  
Publishers, Montreal.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Our subscribers throughout the United States who cannot procure the international Post Office orders at their post-office can get, instead, a Post Office order, payable at Rouse's Point, N. Y., which will prevent much inconvenience both to ourselves and to subscribers.

GRATEFUL—COMFORTING.  
**EPPS'S COCOA.**  
BREAKFAST

"By a thorough knowledge of the natural laws which govern the operations of digestion and nutrition, and by a careful application of the fine properties of well-selected Cocoa, Mr. Epps has provided our breakfast tables with a delicately flavored beverage which may save us many heavy doctors' bills. It is by the judicious use of such articles of diet that a constitution may be gradually built up until strong enough to resist every tendency to disease. Hundreds of subtle maladies are floating around us ready to attack wherever there is a weak point. We may escape many a fatal shaft by keeping ourselves well fortified with pure blood and a properly nourished frame."—Civil Service Gazette.

Made simply with boiling water or milk. Sold only in packets by Grocers, labelled thus: **JAMES EPPS & CO., Homoeopathic Chemists, London England.**

The Nervous  
The Debilitated  
The Aged

HALF OF THE PEOPLE are in one of these classes; therefore, half of the people ought to take **Palme's Celery Compound.**

This wonderful medicine restores the nervous system, and also regulates the bowels, blood and kidneys. Thousands of nervous, debilitated and aged people have gained strength and health by using this great nerve tonic. At all druggists, \$1.00. Send for free book.

ASK YOUR GROCER FOR EDWARDS' DESIGNATED SOUP. Nourishing, Economical. Prepared in a few minutes.

THE NORTHERN MESSENGER is printed and published every fortnight at Nos. 321 and 323 St. James St., Montreal, by John Redpath Dougall, of Montreal.

Mary J. Holmes' New Story "MILDRED'S AMBITION"

A story of social ambition, by the most popular story-writer in America. Every mother should read it and place it in the hands of her daughters. A pure, domestic story—not at all sensational, but intensely interesting.

Rose Terry Cooke's New Story "THE WISDOM OF THE ANCIENTS"

A story of dress and redress.

"LUMAN SKINKLE'S RELIGION" BY Josiah Allen's Wife

The best story she has ever written. Its rich, keen sarcasm is irresistible. She keeps the reader convulsed with her sharp hits—spiced with pure fun, strong common sense and sound moral lessons.

Will Carleton's POEMS—with full-page drawings, finest illustrations ever engraved, by best artists.

- "THE GRAND OLD DAY" a Thanksgiving poem.
- "THE VOICE OF A STAR" a Christmas poem.

The above are a few of the special features to be found in the Autumn numbers of the

LADIES' Home Journal

AND PRACTICAL HOUSEKEEPER



SKETCHES AND PORTRAITS OF Distinguished Women.

YOU shall have it FROM NOW to JANUARY 1889

Four months, beginning September, for only

10 CENTS

Silver or Stamps the mere cost of paper, postage, &c.

We want to put it in A MILLION families on trial.

CURTIS PUB. CO. Philadelphia, Pa.