

Herbie the Hero

A True Story of a Cripple Child's Devotion to Christ

AMONG the names that will find prominent place on God's Honor Roll of Heroes, perhaps none will be counted more illustrious than that of the little cripple lad of Moose Jaw, Assa., who, on the twenty-first of January last, was promoted to the immediate presence of the Master whom he loved so well and served so faithfully. As we read the simple record which follows, written by his pastor, the blush of shame crept up over our face in thought of how little we, with our health and vigor, had done in comparison with this heroic little soul. Through the kindness of the Rev. F. B. Stacey we are able to give our readers a portrait of the twelve-year old boy whose missionary zeal has already brought inspiration to so many lives. It shall be true of him as of the saint of old that "he being dead yet speaketh." We pray that the message of his life may be heard by the whole church of Christ as a summons to more self-sacrificing effort on behalf of a perishing world. The Rev. Mr. Stacey writes:

Herbie Bellamy was born in Moose Jaw, Assa., January 15, 1887. He was a cripple from birth, and owing to some form of spinal trouble, was never able to walk or talk or use his hands. When I moved to Moose Jaw, at the Conference of 1892, Herbie was learning to push himself around with his feet, in a little four-wheeled framed cart, which his father had made for him. He was a bright and interesting little fellow, with expressive eyes, and a mobile countenance; even at that early age there were evidences of a marked spiritual perception and religious development. His home was one calculated to promote the growth of true moral sentiment.

Shortly after our arrival in Moose Jaw, Mrs. Bellamy took charge of the infant class. Then began Herbie's regular attendance at Sunday-school. He at once became interested, learning and, in his own way, reciting the topic, golden text, and main facts of the lesson. Some time after this Dr. McKenzie, of Toronto, visited our town. I was very anxious for him to see Herbie, and during the interview he suggested that while Herbie might never be able to use his hands, he could certainly learn to write with his foot. This proved a most happy and valuable suggestion, and, after a time, the art was acquired with comparative readiness and astonish-

ing skill. During all this time he had shown a special interest in missionary work. When a very little boy he had his missionary box, into which was placed every coin that parents or friends gave him. The reward books which he received, year by year, from the Mission Rooms, were always highly prized, and never was he happier in those early days than when his mother would read to him or tell him stories out of his "missionary book."

Some time after his mother became infant class teacher, the entire class was organized into a mission band, and Herbie was unanimously chosen president, and henceforth the society was known locally as "Herbie's Mission Band." This proved a great blessing to our little friend, still further deepening his sympathy, widening his knowledge, and increasing his interest in mission work. Visits from representatives of the W. M. S., on their way to or from Japan, did much toward centralizing his thought and his interest upon that country, until, finally, he decided to earn enough money to educate a Japanese boy, so that he could take his place, and preach in his native land the Gospel of Christ, which Herbie was unable himself to do. Think of it! a ten-year-old child, speechless and helpless, a physical wreck, undertaking to literally fulfil our Master's last command. But he goes to work, and soon, with pen and foot, is doing business for the Lord, giving, not ten per cent., but all, to this object.



HERBIE BELLAMY.

This one thing he does. He could not go himself to Japan, but he will send his boy in his place. Unable to use tongue, hands, or limbs for Jesus, he has his pen placed between his toes and writes names and short letters, and in that western town it was not difficult for him to get plenty of work. As a result of this year of loving labor, we find in the annual report of the W. M. S. for 1897, the following: "From Moose Jaw we received the handsome sum of \$83, the result of the efforts of a little cripple lad, Master Herbie Bellamy, to be used expressly and only for the education of a pupil in Kanazawa Orphanage." One year later we find that Herbie's Band has raised during the year the almost incredible sum of \$160.05, while the ordinary church contributions had increased over fifty per cent. On the evening of Sunday, December 4, he talked much