

APPLICATION

*Caleb the son of Jephunneh*, v. 6. Caleb sprang from a foreign race, and was an Israelite only by adoption; and yet to few did Israel owe more than to him. He has his successors in the many converts from heathenism who put to shame those born and brought up in Christian lands. The story is told of a native woman of Nugour, one of the Caroline Islands, in the South Pacific, that she heard and received the gospel, while living for a time in the neighboring island of Kusaie. On her return she began to tell the good news to her countrymen. She persuaded them to keep the Sabbath and to build a chapel for the worship of the true God, and taught them all she knew of the Bible. By and by she found a young man whom the missionaries on Kusaie undertook to train as a pastor for the people of Nugour. While he was absent, receiving his training, the faithful woman carried on the work, and a year or two later a missionary, visiting her island, found seventy-five persons worthy of baptism.

*The thing . . . the Lord said unto Moses*, v. 6. Men willingly give the produce of their farms, the goods in their shops, and the labor of their hands and brain for little pieces of stamped paper. The reason is that on those "bills" that pass from hand to hand, there is the promise of the Government, or of some bank, to pay so much gold to the holder of them. Scattered all through the Bible are God's promises, as numerous and as bright as the stars. Governments and banks may fail to make good their promises; but never since the sun began to shine, did God fall short of any promise of His, and that sun will fall from the heavens before He disappoints any one who trusts in His word.

*As it was in mine heart*, v. 7. Milton in *Paradise Lost*, pictures Satan, and the angels over whom he ruled, planning how they might resist the authority of God's Son. With all his skill, the great rebel stirred the company to revolt. His artful words and specious arguments were successful with all but one of his hearers. That one was the Seraph Abdiel, of whom the poet says:

" . . . . . Faithful found  
Among the faithless, faithful only he;  
Among innumerable false, unmoved,  
Unshaken, unseduced, untempted,  
His loyalty he kept, his love, his zeal;  
Nor number, nor example with him wrought  
To swerve from truth, or change his constant mind,  
Though single."

Moral cowardice is sorely common in our day. Business men are afraid to take sides on moral questions for fear of hurting their trade. Politicians shrink from voting against measures of which they disapprove, lest they should give offence to some powerful supporter. People in society dare not raise their voices against vices which pass current in their set. Caleb's report was unpopular, but events proved that he was right; and every man who dares to maintain the right will one day be vindicated.

*My brethren . . . made the heart of the people melt*, v. 8. It is said that every individual can influence a circle of at least seven other persons, as no one else can. We multiply ourselves by the effect our words and example have upon others. From us there is constantly going forth into the hearts of those about us encouragement that will help to win the fight against all kinds of evil or discouragement that will go far to cause defeat. With the story of the two spies against ten before us, it is not difficult to say which are worthiest of our imitation.

*Wholly followed*, v. 9. Moody once asked a man if he was "O and O". The man was puzzled, and Moody explained that he meant "Out and Out" for Christ. "O and O" It is out and out confession and practice that count. Only by keeping our faces steadily Godward will we grow in Christian character, and have power to help others. And only so, as Christians, will we have self respect.

*Give me this mountain*, v. 12. Imagine a soldier asking his leader for an easy, safe post. Why, his heart leaps and his blood tingles to the finger tips, when he is chosen for some specially difficult and dangerous duty. It should

What One Woman Did

Better Than the Bank

Two Against Ten

Heroes Wanted

The Post of Peril