

suing from behind a rock, "Whar now, stranger, whar you be agoing?"

"I am going to find a man called Uncle Jack, who can make fish bite when no one else can, and who never fails to hit a squirrel in the eye," answered the deacon. "I want to get him to go hunting with me," he put in quickly.

"Air you the new preacher from the Mission around the Cove?" asked the tall, lank mountaineer, getting up from behind the rock, holding on to his long squirrel rifle as he spoke.

"Yes, I am," replied Mr. Norwin frankly, and "I wonder if you are not Uncle Jack."

"Jes' so," came the laconic answer. "That's what they calls me, and I reckon that's a good enough name for we uns whar aint er settin up fer being better than other folks."

"It's a very fine name, Uncle Jack, and I have been wanting to meet you ever since I came to the school. Do you know, Uncle Jack, I want to go through these mountains with you on a real hunt, and I want you to show me how to catch fish on a day like this. I am told that you are the only man on this mountain that can make them bite rain or shine."

"Jes' so," came again from the lips of the huntsman, "Jes' so."

"And may I ask if you will take me along on a hunt and when?"

"Wall, I can tell the old 'oman and start the fust thing in the morning, if that suits yer, but I tell you right now, preacher, you needn't bring in none of that baptizing talk, and none of your everlasting prayers for the unrepenting. I don't stand fer none of that." The promise was given and kept, with the exception of a silent grace over the basket of luncheon, which he brought along next day, and which they enjoyed together in the cold, dense woods of the mountain.

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For three years Uncle Jack went fishing and hunting with the "Fisher of Men," and although he refused to attend service at the mission, or to "learn them books," he had listened to many and many a story of Christ from a Bible which the young deacon

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had given him, and which he kept put away in his "chist" in the cabin.

In the beginning of the fourth year of the young deacon's stay at the mountain mission, when he had practically despaired of Jack's conversion, he was called one day to preach the funeral service of one of his people who lived near the school building. The white pine coffin had been brought in an ox cart, and the men, women and children of the mountain side were grouped around the open grave, and listened in tearless silence to the burial service. Among the mourners was Uncle Jack's "old 'oman" looking troubled and anxious. When the service was over she went timidly up to the deacon and said, "Preacher, I want you to come up and see Jack quick, he's mighty bad. When he was blasting out rock yistirday, he hurt

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his hand and got some dinimite in the hurt place, and blood' pisin is sot in, and to tell you the truth he is plum nigh dead."

The deacon expressed much regret and said he would come at once. The wind blew a wintry gale as he threaded his way over the boulders and brushes to the one-room cabin, five miles away on the mountain. He found Uncle Jack suffering terribly, and with a wound which indeed seemed as if it might prove fatal. Uncle Jack was lying on a sheep's skin in front of the fire. "Hit's the only place whar I can keep warm," he explained, as the young deacon knelt down by him to examine his hand, "hit's the only place." And indeed the cabin was more like a cold storage room than a place of abode for humans, for the weather was bitterly cold and the chinkin had fallen out of the cracks, through which the wind came in great gusts. There was no window to the cabin, the door serving for entrance and light, but even so, the room was as cold as charity itself is supposed to be.

After a few words of encouragement and kindness, the young deacon sat silently meditating on the scene before him—his loving heart full of sympathy and pity, and longing to give them the comforting message and a glimpse of that "peace which passeth understanding." Uncle Jack seemed to be divining the thoughts of the missionary. He held out his well hand and said, "Preacher, I dun tuck back the word I said to you about never wanting to hear none of that talk about baptizing and sich like, and if you will read some of the things from that thar Bible you give me, I'm ready to listen. Git it out of the chist, Mar, git it fur him." The old woman went quickly to the "chist" and brought forth a budget in a piece of striped home-spun cloth. It was the Bible.

"Hain't airy word been read outen it before," Uncle Jack said faintly, and I want you to be the fust one to read the message."

Uncle Jack and Mar listened with deep attentions as the young missionary read chapter after chapter. Uncle Jack didn't know a single letter of the alphabet, but he had a wonderful faculty of remembering Scriptural quotations. The last chapter which the deacon read was the account of Philip's baptism of the eunuch. When he had finished it the deacon knelt down and offered a prayer, then arose to go home, as the way was long, dark and cold, and the hour was late. As he took the hand of the sick man on the floor, he felt himself drawn close down and he heard the faint whisper close to his ear. "See, here, preacher, that is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"

Inasmuch as Uncle Jack had used the exact words of the eunuch, the deacon immediately gave Philip's answer, "If thou believest with all thine heart thou mayst." Immediately the sick man answered, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." A pan of water was procured and there, in the far mountain side, in the little one room log cabin home, almost lost in its lonely remoteness, Uncle Jack was made a "member of Christ, a

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child of God and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven."

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