

Among evangelistic workers, Charlotte Elliott's hymn,

"Just as I am, without one plea,"

is one of the most favourably known and widely used. What revealings of the human heart, what unfoldings of Christly compassion, what assurances of divine acceptance and willingness to "pardon, cleanse, relieve," all who come to Him, are therein contained. The origin of the hymn is charged with peculiar interest. One evening, the Rev. Dr. Malan was being entertained at Miss Elliott's home in Geneva, Switzerland. In the course of conversation, this distinguished missionary specially emphasized the importance of personal religion. The young lady, who was in failing health at the time, somewhat resented the Doctor's close questioning. A few days afterward, however, she expressed regret for what she called her former rudeness, and said to him, "I do not know how to find Christ, and I want you to help me." The Doctor's answer was brief and pointed, "Come to Him just as you are."

Little did either of them imagine the time would ever come when this hope-inspiring message would be wafted around the world on the wings of Christian song. To the author it became the means not only of her own conversion, but also the inspiration of a Gospel in song that possibly may serve more than any other single hymn to swell the chorus of the skies. What multitudes of sin-laden and almost despairing hearts have found pardon and peace by carrying out the purpose expressed in this hymn, "O Lamb of God, I come."

For more than sixty years the use of this hymn, in revival and evangelistic work, has been attended with gracious and soul-saving power. And as it is

found in all church hymnals and sung by Christian workers the wide world over, many incidents of deep and thrilling interest could be cited, such as the following:

In the summer of 1895, the Rev. Dr. Couch, pastor of a leading Methodist church in Brooklyn, N.Y., had made special preparation for a certain Sabbath evening service. But the night was wet and warm, and the people for whom the sermon was intended were absent. The Doctor was disappointed, and somewhat perplexed. But looking up, he prayed, "Lord help me." Immediately a familiar text was recalled from memory's store, and, changing the hymns, he announced, "Just as I am, without one plea." The windows and doors of the sanctuary were open wide, and the words of this song, so clearly voicing the soul's need and resolve, were borne out upon the evening air. In his room near by, a young lawyer, the son of a preacher, was lying upon his couch. The windows of his room also being open, every word of this message of hope was borne in upon his soul. In choosing this hymn, the pastor was unaware of the fact that it had been sung a few minutes before, in the young people's service.

The next morning the minister received a message from the lawyer requesting him to call at his office on Tuesday morning at ten o'clock, and adding the words, "Please fail not, as I have something important to tell you." At the appointed hour Dr. Couch entered the lawyer's room. Grasping the pastor's extended hand, with tearful eyes and trembling voice, he said:

"I want to tell you that I have found the Lord Jesus Christ to be my Saviour." And he immediately added, "Let me tell you how this was brought about. On