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Remarkable Answer to Prayer

The following statement is accredited by the evangelist whose prayer was answered, and we have completely satisfied ourselves, after careful inquiry from all the parties, that every fact is exactly true. Names are omitted. The evangelist, who is well known to us, writes as follows:—

'When I was first converted, in 1890, I was well off and doing a good business. After my conversion I commenced evangelistic work, and then God called me to go through a trial of faith, as I watched my income decrease month by month because my customers were offended by my preaching. When I thought of my wife and children I was often sorely tempted to draw back from the active service in the Gospel, but God spoke to me through Isa. l., 7, and II. Tim. iv., 1, and I continued. At last I received nothing at all from my business, and I had sold all I had to buy necessaries. I had no other work, and for several years I simply lived by taking every need direct in prayer to God, and receiving from him in answer just when required, through some anonymous donor.

'I will give you one instance now in detail. I had been invited in April by Mr. A— to come and hold a ten days' mission in the town of X., more than six hundred miles distant, commencing on the 29th of June following, and at the end of his letter he put, "This is a call from God"; and after a prayer for guidance, I so accepted it. Now June had come, and I had been advertised in the city to commence my mission, but I had no money to pay my fare to the place. During the last week before the 29th my wife said to me more than once, "I don't see how you can go"; and I only said, "God has commissioned me to go, and he will send me the money." I never mentioned to anyone that I was in need, but I cried much to God. The last day came, and I packed my valise and said good-bye to wife and children and went to my office.

'About 11.30 a.m., I was standing by the office table tying my papers and books, and my valise was on the floor, when a knock came to the door and a gentleman walked in and said to me, "Good morning, Mr. N—! Are you going to X. to hold a mission?" I said, "Yes, I am." He said, "Have you got enough money to pay your fare?" I said "No." He then put his hand in his pocket and took out three sovereigns, which was just enough to cover the cheapest fare to X. After thanking him, I asked him if he could explain to me what caused him to come to me. He told me that it was due to a remarkable dream he had had during the night, and I asked him to write out the details and send them to me.

'That letter is now before me, and is an account of his dream. He says: "About the dream, I never saw you more distinctly in my life. I was in your office, and you were arranging your papers in my dream. In answer to questions I gathered that though all ready to go to X., you had not sufficient money to pay the fare, and I knew that it was really because I had doubts on this point that I had called to see you. Then I saw in my dream that



A BASUTO CHIEF AND HIS SONS.

—South African Pioneer.

I gave you three sovereigns; and it was made very clear to me that all you had was 8s. 6d. When I awoke in the morning I was somewhat tempted to regard the dream as the result of a disordered digestion, but after prayer to God I felt certain I had to hand you £3 out of a little fund specially dedicated to him." The writer of this letter is now living, and actively engaged in Gospel work.—'Evangelical Alliance Quarterly.'

How and When to Stoop.

Benjamin Franklin, when a young man, visited the Rev. Dr. Cotton Mather. When the interview was ended, the reverend gentleman showed him, by a back way, out of the house. As they proceeded along a narrow passage, the doctor said to the lad, 'Stoop! Stoop!' Not immediately comprehending the meaning of the advice, he took another step, and brought his head pretty violently against a beam that projected over the passage. 'My lad,' said the Divine, 'you are young, and the world is before you; learn to stoop as you go through it, and you will save yourself many a hard thump.'

Not an easy science to learn, is it? the science of stooping gracefully and at the right time. When a man stands before you in a passion fuming and foaming, although you know that he is both unreasonable and wrong, it is folly to stand as straight, and stamp as hard, and talk as loud as he does. This places two temporary madmen face to face. Stoop as you would if a tornado were passing.

It is no disgrace to stoop before a heavy wind. The reeds bend to the wind, while the unyielding oak is torn up by the roots. It is just as sound philosophy to echo back the bellowing of a mad bull, as it is to respond in kind to the ravings of a mad man or—pardon me, ladies—of a mad woman.

Stoop! gracefully, deferentially; and, amid the pauses of the wind, throw in the still small voice, the 'soft and gentle words which turn away wrath.'

When reproved for an error you have committed, for a wrong you have perpetrated, for a neglect chargeable against you, stoop! Do not justify or palliate a palpable fault. This only intensifies and aggravates the wrong. This excites dire indignation. Stoop! If you say mildly, 'I know I was wrong; forgive me;' you have stolen away all your complainant's thunder. I have seen this tried with the happiest effect. A friend came to me once, his face black with frowns, and anger all bottled up ready for an explosion, because I had failed to fulfill some promised commission. I foresaw the storm, and took both his hands in mine as he approached, simply saying, 'I am very sorry, I forgot; pardon me this time.' What could the man say? He kept the corp in his bottle, and I escaped a terrible blast.

How much more easily and pleasantly we should get through life, if we only knew how and when to stoop!

But—when tempted to do a mean thing, or a wrong thing—when solicited to evil by companions or circumstances—then, don't stoop. You may give up your own personal rights, if you will; you may give 'coat and cloak' to an unjust demand; sometimes even this is necessary, to stoop in silence to an injustice. It may be done without degradation or guilt. But never stoop to a meanness, to a debasement. Never stoop to pick up a forbidden object, the appropriation or possession of which righteously exposes you to scorn or censure.—American Paper.

I cannot consent as your Queen to take revenue from that which destroys the souls and bodies of my subjects.—Queen of Madagascar.