

Win One for the Master

AN ADDRESS BY REV. W. S. A. CRUX, MANTOU, MAN.

NEXT to Christ in the heart, the greatest fact in human life is prayer. Anyone who recognizes and makes use of this fact, realizes that Christ in the heart means the opening up of infinite resources, which by prayer he is able to use for all for whom Christ died.

Face to face with our brother and sister, to get them to love and serve Christ becomes a great longing of the soul. It is one of the sure signs of our spiritual life, this yearning to see others won for Christ.

Out on the ocean, years ago, Dr. Guthrie tells us, they found a boat adrift and thought they saw one lone person on it. The ship was hauled to, and a boat and crew despatched to investigate the wrecked vessel. They found the man, but he was unconscious. They applied restoratives, and took him into their boat. He became conscious for a moment, and said, "There is another man." For him they began to hunt, and when they found him took both to the ship and sunk the old battered hulk in the sea. Christ in the heart could make us desirous to save our companions, above all else. This is possible for every one. We cannot all be great preachers or teachers, but every one can do a little of this personal work for Christ. The joy of personality is to touch other lives with helpfulness. Men have been great without this experience of rich personality, but the noblest souls have felt the touch of the personality of Christ.

Luther was a great man in his day, but so harsh that only in some great controversy was he able to add courage. But Wesley could charm a crowd with such winning, tender personality, that men who came to his meetings with a definite purpose to abuse and disturb, were often won to him and to Christ also. One day he came to the preaching to break it up, and to mob Wesley. He thought he would wait a while till all was going nicely, and he listened before he would knock him down, as intended. Wesley talked straight to his heart, and at the end of the service he came, all broken down with shame and humiliation, and told the preacher he wanted him to ride on his back up-town to atone for his evil intentions. Wesley took him by the arm and called him brother, and as they walked, talked to him of Jesus. Not only was he won to Christ, but he became one of Wesley's preachers. Such men were able to do great things for God and to win thousands for the Master.

Win one for the Master! There was only one Luther, one Paul, one Wesley; but there are millions of us, and of these people who can do our little part, and use what strength of personality God has given us. Do not be afraid. The great men have their place, and we have ours. Great leaders do not make it harder, but clear the way for the millions to follow.

George Westinghouse discovered the principle of the air-brake, but thousands of men are now working with it, and as a result multitudes travel day and night in greater safety. Bell discovered the telephone, and was the subject of caricature as a man with a toy. Yet to-day our whole country is a neighborhood, and millions use the telephone who could not make one. Mendelssohn as a boy came down and played the organ all alone in the midnight, and became a world-renowned musician with a great musical personality. Not many can be

like him, yet there are very few homes, but with a fair amount of care, they can have skill enough to make music an enjoyment.

So in Christian work. There have been, and are, five and ten talented men who have great winning personality, but to the one talented member I speak, for you may at least win one for the Master. More people need a helping hand than we ever dreamed of, and oftener than we ever know. The world is open before us, and if we sow helplessness we shall reap happiness. Every pastor who has Canadian work will tell you that here lies the highest joy that makes his life more and more sacred because he has won souls for his Lord. It may be true of all Christian workers.

A reporter on the Chicago Times heard Moody preach, and was led with others to Christ. Moody said that more would be won if only some four friends were as devoted to them as the four that brought the palsied man to Jesus. This reporter said he would try it. He joined the Church and League, and began to talk about the work. Then he asked others to join him, so that they could unitedly labor. Three came. They selected the city editor as their first trial; but when the first man approached him his heart failed, and it was not till long after that he was reached. Humiliated others were, they did not give up, but selected a young man who was a carpenter. When the first one went he paid little attention, and kept the buzz-saw running all the time he talked. To the next one he was abusive; he was simply mad with the third man. Yet when the fourth went, he was stunned and yielded, and was won for the Master.

This naturally leads one who speaks on this subject to tell his own experience. This is what Trumbull does in his "Individual Work for Individuals." So I may by a few selected examples show what I mean. A young woman whose mother was dead had charge of a household, and her task was the heavier because of a very harsh father, who had grown cold and hard under trials. I spoke to her several times, but with no avail. One day near the close of our meetings I was much moved to try again, and with a good deal of anxiety and prayer, I went to see her. I had not spoken much when she told me that when Mr. A. sang "Waiting at the Pool," she felt it meant her; and as we knelt, prayer was broken by her sobs, and she said she came out on the Lord's side, and later worked in the meetings. Her father and brother were won, and she afterwards joined the Salvation Army and became a splendid officer.

Two brothers, on one of my missions, were very much alike, and so did their business together. The younger son was won to Christ, and then with the pastor he worked for the salvation of the other brother. But it seemed an almost impossible task, and we were nearly discouraged. One day the brothers were out driving together and had to cross the Red River on a ferry. They had got across and then the team made a dash to go up the steep bank of the river. Just at the top the younger brother fell over unconscious in the other's arms, and was dead of a heart failure before he was rescued. After the funeral service I conversed with the surviving man, and our talk naturally came round to the wishes of the departed. I pointed out that his deceased brother's greatest desire was that they two should be one in Christ. A little gentle urgency and

we were on our knees before the Lord, and from that hour he also has been a worker for the Master.

In another place I had quite a different experience. A young woman to whom I was specially drawn, because of her leadership in the social side of our church life, was not a follower of the Master. I spoke to her and showed my concern for her spiritual life, but she turned it all aside. One day I went specially to visit her at home, but no one answered my knock. I left, and a suggestion came to write her at once and it would reach her that day. I did so. That night she was the only one who came for help, and before the whole church she testified to Christ's love in her heart. She became one of our best workers, and I was talking only this week with a young man whom she had helped win to Christ.

Another man at the same place was over fifty. I made him a subject of prayer, and was invited to interview him in his business office. After some conversation I told him my mission, and said, "I think this is your day of salvation." "Thank God you came," said he, as I bade him good-bye, and until he died he was a worker for the Master.

One man whose salvation is upon my heart is still out of Christ. I pray with him and for him. I have corresponded with him occasionally for ten years, but as yet he still stands on the defensive. All the encouragement I ever had is in his last letter. "Although I do not think it is much use praying for me, yet I thank you for your kind wishes on my behalf." He is a noble soul, and I want him for Christ.

One other is all I will relate. I had preached at a schoolhouse one morning, and had gone home with a man for dinner. I walked up the railway to my new appointment, and there I met a man came along for a mile or more. Said he, "I believe if I was in a church I could be converted." "My dear brother," I replied, "there is no need of any church. God is right here." Then we went down on the side of the track, and there in the grass we knelt and laid the whole matter before the Lord, and when I bade him good-bye he was all joy. He became a great worker in and around his own home.

This is enough for me to give to show the extent and variety of the work that we can do in soul-winning. What does it mean? It means we can each one go out and win one for the Master. Will you go out from this Convention pledged to win one? What a change will come over all our Leagues if that becomes the purpose of the Look-Out Committee, and then of all the members! This is our real object as true Epworth Leaguers,—to do personal work and to win our associates to Christ. May God find us willing workers, this far at least, to win one for the Master!

In a stimulating letter sent jointly to all the Leagues in British Columbia at the beginning of the year, President W. J. Hogg and the Secretary, W. C. Findlay, say, among other things: "British Columbia is one of the greatest fields for Methodist work in Canada. Our Leagues must be alive, and look after the young people coming to our Province, to see that they are brought into the church as soon as they reach us, and so prevent the Evil One getting hold of them. We would suggest that every Society have an aim to look out and work for during the Conference year. If your League has a good membership, make it your aim to increase it by 50 per cent. by the first of May. We can do it if we will." Let our Leagues everywhere so aim.