

*The  
Experience  
Meeting*

"Amen! Amen!" with unexcelled frequency and emotion.

Emotion, it must be confessed, stirred in everyone's breast. And whether one responded or not, none could set aside lightly the fact that the call had come. A great stillness would settle upon the meeting, and we boys at the back would stop throwing conversation lozenges, wondering who would be the first to give his experience.

Experience meetings usually took place near the end of the Revival. They would begin with Mrs. Bake rising and saying with a thin, pithless voice that she thanked the Lord for what he had done for her. Immediately the leader would shout "Hallelujah! who'll be the next?" And just as Mrs. Pigeon would be rising old Mr. Mullett would begin "Rescue the Perishing". The first verse finished, and while the old man would be taking in breath to begin the second, someone would start to pray. With that the old man would fall back on "Amen! Amen!" and there would be some groaning, much singing, with a tincturing of tears.

Tears frequently accompanied the experience. Who could have withheld them the memorable night on which Henry Perkins, wild Charlie Mitchell, and the local Member all gave their experiences. It had seemed enough that so notorious an offender as Charlie had been converted, while to see the Member go forward was the sensation of the year. Charlie and Henry had agreed before the meeting began that they would speak out, and it seems that the Member, perhaps uncertain about his condition, but professing a change of heart, had obtained from the revivalist a certificate of conversion.

Certificates of that kind were not common, and Henry Perkins, at least, did not demand one. He stood up like a man and thanked the Lord for what had been done for him. He had been steeped in sin, but now he was free (Hallelujah!). The commotion that followed as Charlie Mitchell rose to his feet, was enough to drown all but the first bar of "Rescue the Perishing". Joe Ham said afterwards that Charlie was as white as a sheet, and Miss Pringle avowed that he shook like a leaf. It was known that Mary Mullet had warned her father not to be shouting "Amen!" so often, but as soon as Charlie stood up, the old man, having failed in his attempt to start his favourite hymn, shouted "Amen!" and was just opening up to repeat it when Mary nudged him in the ribs, and he settled back in the seat with a thud.

*Mary Nudged  
Him in  
the Ribs*