THE CANADIAN CHURCHMAN



pression of vice, open and unashamed, was indelible.

And yet those days were an epoch in his spiritual life. He could not but notice how many of those who had drifted into this underworld were young men who, like himself, came from good homes, knowing right from wrong; like himself, too, in fine physique and capacity for hard work. He suddenly realized that as they were, so might he become.

The realization was like a sudden blow. What was to stop him from sinking to their level? As conscience worked, memory recalled the Bishop's sermon at St. Gabriel's. For what had these young Esau's sold their birthrights? For what was he selling his? That was the question conscience asked Gilbert with maddening reiteration in those four days. But he succeeded in enading an answer: and at the end of four days went up the coast on a boat carrying supplies, and, hiding under the name of Bob Lawson, was lost to his family for many weeks.

David, meanwhile, was straining every nerve to find a clue to his brother's hiding-place. The police had been notified and furnished with a description of the missing lad. The Bishop had notified his clergy and missionaries throughout the diocese. Diligent search had been made for Graham, since both David and his mother felt sure that Gilbert would have joined his friend as soon as possible after leaving Otter Lake, but in vain; both Graham and Gilbert seemed to have disappeared from the earth, leaving no trace.

During those terrible weeks, David and his mother and sister frequently discussed the cause of Gilbert's estrangement. Each felt that some mystery lay behind the change in the boy's whole disposition, and feared to penetrate it, lest some disgraceful act might be revealed. David reproached himself again and again for some unconscious offence against his brother, and the suspense and uncertainty bore hardly on him.

One day, when Gilbert had been missing for some weeks, the Bishop walked in unexpectedly. Whenever duty brought him to Port Victor, he looked in on the sorrowful trio. David was unusually discouraged because a clue, which had appeared very promising, had ended in failure. He had travelled for two days to a distant farm where a young Englishman, said to answer to the description of Gilbert, was employed. David had found the man to be one of the weakest types of the "remittance man"clearly shipped to Canada by wealthy friends who preferred to keep him as far as possible from home. He returned weary and dispirited.

(To be continued).

Incidents of Work in Connection with the Circulation of Scriptures Through the Scripture Gift Mission.

Amongst the Belgians.

One of the agents of the Scripture Gift Mission working amongst Belgians, Walloons and Flemish soldiers sends us the following extracts from soldiers' letters :-

"With great pleasure I received the New Testament and your letter. What a precious Book is the Testament! I have found in it very interesting passages. What consolations for those who have a real faith in Jesus Christ when homes fall around and amidst the shrapnel!"-J.K.

"With great joy I received the New Testament. Will you kindly send one to my comrade?"-E.G.

"I duly received the Bible which gives me great satisfaction, and thank you heartily as it is of great value to me. My comrades ask permission to read it sometimes."-R.J.

"I was delighted to get your letter stating you were sending me God's Word. For a long time I have desired to procure the Holy Scriptures, but alas, here at the front, lonely and sad, I could not get any information how to obtain it. Happy was I when a comrade returned from England and gave me a tract in the Scriptures. Soon shall I receive the much-loved Book. I can't thank you enough."-H.C.

"I saw my comrade had received a Bible from you. Thus I beg you to send me one."-D.C.

"I am very glad to have received the New Testament. Please send one to my comrade."—H.L. (Sergeant).

"I have two comrades who desire a New Testament. They are Flemings. Please send them."-C.O.

"I thank you heartily for the New Testament. Please send one to each of my comrades who want it."-E.G.

"With great pleasure I received today the New Testament. Best thanks. I will read a chapter every day. Four of my comrades asked me to ask you to send them one."-J.D.

"I want to be a faithful servant and good soldier of Jesus Christ."-L.J.J.

"You have done me a real pleasure in sending me the New Testament. I will not fail to read it attentively." -M.D.

"With joy I let you know I have read the Bible, the Word of God. I read it every day and it strengthens me."-H.D.C.

Donations may be sent to the Editor, or to the Chairman, the Rev. Preb. H. W. Webb-Peploe, M.A., or to the Secretary, Francis C. Brading, Esq., at 15, The Strand, London, W.C.



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