

INCIDENTS  
IN THE  
LIFE OF HOLY ANN

BY

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*Wife of Rev. G. D. Watson, D.D.*

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HOLY ANN.



# INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF HOLY ANN

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ST. ANN, OF TORONTO.

EVA. M. WATSON.

Some months ago I introduced our readers to St. Ann, of Toronto, Canada ; she is usually called Holy Ann by every one who knows her. When up there last, only a few weeks since, I learned more of her life and history. God wonderfully honors her simple childlike faith, and although many half-believers and incredulous persons might say "It is undue familiarity with God," nevertheless it is pleasing to Him, for He never fails to answer her questions and to give her leadings as she desires. Her life and the incidents in it are like the lives of the old prophets and Bible characters.

She tells us how at one time while visiting some one in the country, she said in the morning to her Heavenly Father : "When shall I go home, let me know when I must go." So about noon,

when the friend had the dinner nearly ready, Ann said, "I must get on my bonnet and go home." Her friend remonstrated with her, and urged her to stay till dinner was ready, but Ann said, "No, I must go, for my Father tells me it is time to go just now." The hostess could not understand why Ann should start at such an unseemly hour; they lived also in the country, and there was no train to take her, but Ann insisted it was the Lord's time for her to go. After putting on her things she went out to the gate, and looking up the road she saw a carriage with a gray horse to it coming past; she says she felt that was the one to take her home.

Just here let me say, Ann sometimes makes mistakes, which she confesses, but she says the Father never does mistake. So in this instance she saw another team turn in the road and the gray horse turned off, so when the other team came up she got in this carriage, and presently learned that the party was not going to her place at all, she then said, "I have gotten in the wrong carriage." On looking behind she saw the gray horse and carriage coming again, and when it overtook them her driver inquired if the gentleman was going to B—, which was Ann's home, He replied he was. He then asked the gentleman, who proved to be the Catholic priest, if he would take this lady with him, to which he replied: "I am unaccustomed to taking ladies with me, but as she seems to be an elderly lady

(she is ninety-two) I will consent to take her. Ann was soon seated by the priest's side and on her way home. She remarked, "This is a fine horse." "Yes," said the priest. "This is my Father's horse," Ann said. "Oh, no," said the priest, "this is my horse." "The cattle upon a thousand hills belong to my Father," said Ann. "Oh, yes," said the priest, "I now understand." The conversation then turned on God's Word. The priest quoted Scripture from his Bible. Ann said, "My Father tells me you did not repeat that right." Then she would give the correct quotation. This conversation proved to be very interesting and, I trust, profitable to the priest, for at the end of the journey he told Ann he would be glad to take her again when she wanted to go.

This talk with the priest explains why Ann was commanded to leave her friend's house exactly at that time, and had she been slow in obeying, would have lost the opportunity of riding with the priest, and also lost forever the opportunity of testifying and preaching to him as she did on the journey. When we remember that Ann has had no opportunities of education in early life, it is marvelous how quick she is with Scripture quotations. She cannot read and is taught of God alone. Her memory is wonderful.

When she lived in the country, one morning, when she arose, there was a heavy snow on the ground. The barn was some distance from the house, and

how was she to get down there to feed the fowls, as there was no man or boy to make a path.

She went to her refuge in time of trouble and said, "Father, if you will make a path to the barn I will feed the fowls."

A short while after this prayer three horses came frisking and running to the barn. They then came walking up to the house, one behind the other, then turned and walked back again in the same order; then they scattered and went elsewhere. They had made a path for Ann to get down to the barn.

One of her young friends had been paid \$5 for her week's work and lost it on her way home. She was in distress and went to Ann to talk to God about it and to find it for her. After telling Father all about it Ann went to bed. Early next morning God began talking to her and told her to get up, take her lantern and go down the road in search of the money. She obeyed in spite of the covering of snow upon the ground. After walking a while she came to a little sheltered nook where no snow was. She was moved to look in that spot, and there lay the bill, where the wind had blown it and protected it from the snow.

At another time she went to a meeting and entertainment was provided for her somewhere. At the close of the first service she accompanied a gentleman home upon his invitation. When they reached there he seated her in the parlor

and he went out into another room to inform his wife, who, it seems, did not want to entertain Ann at all. While he was trying to reconcile his wife and smooth things out a little, Ann, sitting in the parlor, could not hear a word of what was going on in the other room, but she had a restless, uneasy feeling, and asked her Father about it. The Lord gave her to understand that she was in the wrong place. Presently the gentleman appeared, and Ann said, "I have gotten in the wrong place." "Oh, no," said the man, "it is all right," supposing Ann had overheard the conversation. But she insisted that Father had told her she was in the wrong place and must go somewhere else, and she must do it, and so she found her right place afterward.



#### ANN REBUKING LUKE-WARMNESS.

Holy Ann told us of the time when she was confined to her room, and many people used to call to see her, or inquire for her health. At that time it was a common thing for her to have a visible manifestation of God's glorious presence in the form of a dazzling light on a certain spot on the wall of her room, like the Shekinah between the wings of the Cherubim. The moment any visitor entered the house, she could feel keenly whether they were open sinners, or hypocrites, or backsliders, or genuine believers. When false professors entered

the house she suffered agony of soul much more keenly than when open sinners came, and at such times the divine light on the wall would begin to leave, and Ann would cry out, "Send them away, for they are driving my Father out of the house."

At one time two prominent women called to see Ann, who were quite loud professors, and the Lord told her before they came in that they were not what they professed to be, and gave her a verse for them. So when they came in the room, Ann said to them, "My Father says thou art neither cold nor hot. I would thou wert cold or hot. So then, because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth." And then Ann saw the dazzling light fading away, and she cried out, "You are driving my Father away, leave the room, for you are driving my Father away." When they left Ann said, "Now, Father, they will never come back again," and I cannot do them any good." I did not learn whether these two women ever got right with God or not. Up to this time Ann had never seen an electric arc light, and some time after when she saw the electric lights in Toronto, she said to a friend, "That is just like the presence of my Father I saw on the wall, only my Father's glory was a good deal brighter than that." These things prove that Ann lives in a state of divine union and the fulness of God far beyond what is apprehended by most of the best saints,



and we see in her a true specimen of Bible prophets and apostolic grace.



### HOLY ANN FINDING THINGS.

The children, and young people, and neighbors for miles around, became acquainted with Ann's intimate communion with her Heavenly Father and of how God would talk to her and tell her things. So when the children, or the neighbors lost any article, they would come to Ann and have her ask Father where it was. One night one of the children in the family lost a five dollar bill, and was in much distress over it. The doctor was away at the time, and their cash money was scarce. So Ann prayed Father about the matter, and He told her to get up very early before day next morning, and go down the road, and He would show it to her. She obeyed Father, and before daylight was on the road looking for the money. She saw a bit of paper on the ground, and Satan said, "Ann, that's the money, pick it up;" but Father said, "It is not the money, only a bit of paper," so she went on, and by and by Father said, "Stop, and look under that tuft of grass;" she did so, and there lay the five-dollar bill. At another time a young lady who was about to get married lost a valuable locket, and went to Ann in distress to get her to find it. Ann did not know what the locket contained, and the young lady did not tell her, but when

Ann prayed to Father about the matter, Father said, "The locket will not be found, for the young lady who lost it is not perfectly sincere; she is going to marry a man, and she has the likeness of another man in that locket, which is a fraud, and so the locket will remain lost." This caused Ann to feel sad, for she did not suppose the young lady would practise deceit, so she told her the locket would not be found, and what her Father said about the likeness in it, to the astonishment of the young lady.

The smaller children would try to tease Ann, and one day they hid the cat in the cold stove, and then went to Ann, demanding that she tell where the cat was, and they said if you don't tell us we will doubt your Father. So Ann closed her eyes, and whispered a prayer to Father, and then quietly said, "Go along children, if you will open the cooking stove door the cat will come out all right."



#### ANN PRAYING FOR HER NIECE.

For many years Ann had a great burden for an ungodly brother who would drink whiskey, and did not want Holy Ann to be around his home too much, for her religious zeal was a constant reproof to him. This brother had a little daughter in whom Holy Ann took a deep interest to lead the child to Jesus. One time when Ann was visiting there, the girl's father sent her,

as he had been accustomed to do, to the grog shop to get liquor. This aroused Holy Ann to the awful situation her little niece was in. She sternly rebuked her ungodly brother for making his little daughter a party to his drunkenness. She went off to a place of secret prayer, and laid hold upon the horns of the altar. She asked Father to save her niece, and sanctify her, and take her to heaven, away from such sinful surroundings. God heard her cry, and assured her He would answer. She boldly told her brother, "that was the last time that he would ever degrade his little girl by sending her for liquor." Of course this enraged the drinking man, and he stormed away, as such characters do. Things so happened providentially in the family, that when the father would have sent the child to get liquor, she was on some other errand, or something happened to prevent her going, and in a few days she was taken ill. As she grew worse the family got uneasy but Holy Ann rejoiced, and when they wanted Ann to pray for the child's recovery, she gave them to understand that Father was going to take the child to heaven, and deliver her from such a wicked home. In a few days the little girl died after giving clear testimony that Jesus was her Saviour. There are many things in life worse than death, and Ann was led of God to pray the child up to heaven.

## HOLY ANN'S PENTECOST.

At the time when Holy Ann received the full baptism of the Spirit, she was still a servant living with the doctor's family out in the country in Ontario. The doctor's wife had died, and he was frequently away from home in his practice, and sometimes called to distant places, and would be absent for several days, leaving his children in the care of Ann. We have not learned of the particulars about how Ann was led to see the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit, but when it pleased God to give her the fulness of the Spirit, Ann was so filled with the glory of God that she wanted the Lord to take her to heaven. She refused to leave her little room, and when the children came to see what the matter was, not one of them could enter the room because of the power and glory of God's presence there. Ann said she was not hungry, and refused to eat or drink. Several days passed by, and she would neither eat nor drink, but was constantly praising God day and night, and longing to go to heaven. She became very weak, and after a while the glory in the room subsided enough for the children to enter. The doctor being at this time away from home, Ann requested to be dressed in white, and told the children she was going to die. When the doctor returned and saw how weak Ann was, he said to the children, "What in the world have you been doing to Ann?" They said, "We can do nothing

with her, she will neither eat nor drink nor leave her room."

So the doctor brought her out where she could get fresh air, and had toast and warm water prepared, and compelled her to take a little nourishment. She did not want to eat but to die. But the doctor said, "Ann, I cannot spare you; who shall I have to take care of my children, and you must eat and get strong." In a short time her strength was recovered, and she continued to be the faithful servant she had always been. But her ignorance of every subject was very great. She did not know how to bake bread, or cook, or wash, or iron a garment, or sew a button-hole, without asking Father to show her how, and at nearly every step she would ask Father how to make up the bread, how to cook it, how to iron a garment, and do the mending, and the family all testify that the cooking was first-class, and the doctor said his shirts were laundried just as nice as any one could have done them.



## WHY ANN SOUGHT SANCTIFICATION.

Ann lived many years what would be called a wonderful life of prayer before her full sanctification, and she never heard any sermon on that subject, and being unable to read, and ignorant of books, received her spiritual light through the two avenues of prayer and

the daily providences of God. When the mistress died, and left several children, Ann felt a great burden on her heart how to care for them, and especially as the doctor had a large practice, and frequently was called to a distance, and most all of the care of the household fell on Ann. She loved the children dearly, but many times they were a sore trial to her. She may have heard somebody say that there was an experience in religion where people could be kept from getting angry. She began to plead with the Lord to take all her bad Irish anger out of her, simply for the sake of the children, that she might have patience with them for the sake of their dead mother. One day as she was praying, the Lord spoke these words to her, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." She seemed to understand the first part of the verse, but she was puzzled on the latter part, about "the face of the Lord being against them that do evil," and was partly tempted to conclude that God's face was against her, because she sometimes got angry. So she asked the Lord to explain what He meant. Then the Lord showed her that she was His child, and He heard her prayer; but that her evil nature and her anger was offensive to God, and that His face was against all the carnal mind, whether in herself, or in anybody else. Then she saw that God was to set His face against her evil

temper, and drive it away. Thus the Holy Spirit was His own commentator, and led her untutored mind to see an interpretation of Scripture which very few great scholars would ever discern. She soon found the experience of full sanctification. The motive that led her to seek it was for the sake of the motherless children entrusted to her care.



### ANN CORRECTING BIBLE QUOTATIONS.

Several times in her life Holy Ann has had occasion to correct ministers and others who have wrong quotations of Scripture. Although she cannot read anything except the Bible, and even that very slowly, yet the Holy Spirit puts in her mouth suitable verses for every emergency. She heard one time a minister preaching from Isa. 35. 8. The preacher kept repeating the words that "the wayfaring man, though a fool, might not err therein." Ann at once said, "that, is incorrect," and started toward the pulpit to correct the preacher, but her friends held her back. After the sermon, Ann went forward and said to the minister, "My Father says you did not say the Word right for it reads 'wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.'" Do you mind that? It is shall not, and all the while you were preaching, I saw the words printed on the wall right behind your back, 'shall not err therein,' and I spelled it out as

my Father showed it to me." The minister, like many other people, was afraid of Ann, and regarded her as a strange, mysterious creature. I suppose the old prophets were regarded in the same way.

Another time Ann was in class-meeting, and the leader went on to say we must remember the passage of Scripture that tells us to "redouble our diligence." At once Holy Ann spoke up and said, "My Father tells me that is not in the Bible, but it is 'giving all diligence.' (2. Peter I. 5.) For," said Ann, "if most of you should double your diligence." No wonder that half-hearted professors, and timid, fearful preachers, found Holy Ann to be a thorn in their sides, but to the true child of God she ever proved a constant inspiration. Another time she was talking with a Romish priest, who garbled the Scriptures by Romish interpretation, and she at once said, "My Father says you are not saying that right," and then gave the correct quotation. All of these incidents I heard from Ann's own lips, interspersed with bursts of indignation at the way people misuse the Bible, and then would break forth into holy laughter at the way God would use her and fill her with His joy.



### ANN AND THE SOAP-BONE.

When Holy Ann was still living with the doctor as a servant in the country, she was always doing everything she



could for the poor. She used to make a good deal of soap, and would always boil one pot of soap for the poor, and she told us that the soap she made for the poor was always the best. At one time when making soap, the pot she was making for the poor would not harden down right, and it caused her trouble of mind. She talked to her Father about it, and said, "Father, how is this ; this pot is for the poor and you have always given me the best soap for them, and now I can't make this right ; what shall I do with it ?" Her Father said, "It needs another bone, and you just cover the pot over, and let it stay where it is out doors till to-morrow." In the meantime the children had been teasing Ann about her failure to make good soap for the poor, and which she said her Father would send a good bone that would make it all right, they merrily laughed at her simple trust. Next morning Ann went out early, and sure enough there was a very large beef bone lying by the side of the pot, the very best kind and full of marrow, to make the soap with. Ann was praising God for the good bone, and the children said, "Why, Ann, some dog left the bone there," "Well," said Ann, "it was my Father's dog, and my Father's beef bone, and He made the dog bring it, and put it right where I needed it." Why do we not recognize the hand of God in everything ? Ann has the faith of God's Word, that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and this includes the

animals and beef bones. This perfect trust in God cannot be summoned up just for the occasion, but must come from constant communion with God, and by always sinking out of ourselves into His will and love.



### HOLY ANN AND THE EGGS.

Our readers have had some previous account of a remarkable old saint in Toronto, Canada, that is universally designated as Holy Ann. She is now about ninety-three years old, and has never married. In early life she was a poor servant girl in Ireland, and when she was converted, kneeling at a chair, she saw through the bottom of the chair, and the floor, down into hell, and saw all her sins hanging on the back of the chair. She was not regarded as very bright or apt to learn, and has never learned to read or write, or do a great many simple things, except as taught immediately from God. In early womanhood she came over from Ireland to Canada, and in the winter her main work was to saw wood to keep three fireplaces supplied with fuel. From her conversation she was the subject of wonderful operations of the Holy Spirit, and gave herself up to a life of constant prayer, and in a few years got into such communion with God, whom she always refers to as Father, that the Lord would speak to her and give directions about everything, even the simplest details of

life. For many years she has been a spiritual wonder, and it is to be hoped that some deeply spiritual person will write a brief account of her life. A multitude of remarkable incidents have occurred in her experience, which are too good to sink into oblivion, and can be vouched for by a great many witnesses. We may give a few from time to time, as in our evangelistic work in and around Toronto we have gathered them up. Many years ago she was a servant on a farm in Ontario, and in some way one of her legs became very sore, and while under the doctor's treatment he said she must have a fresh laid egg every day, and no other kind of meat. It was at a season when hens were not laying much, and she asked Father how to get the fresh egg. That day a hen walked into the kitchen, and deliberately went upstairs to Ann's little bed-chamber, and in a box by her bed laid the egg. When Ann saw the hen go upstairs, she said, "Father, what does this mean?" and He said, "Let the hen alone, she is going to lay the egg for you." Then Ann said, "Please Father, don't let her cackle after the egg is laid, for it will make the matter too public, and be a source of annoyance to the family." Sure enough, the hen, after laying the egg, quietly went downstairs and out into the yard. Every day at about that hour that hen would come and quietly deposit an egg in the box by Ann's bed, and then go out without cackling. One day the doctor said Ann could take another kind of meat,

and need not confine herself to the fresh egg, and that day when the hen laid the egg she cackled vociferously, and did not come back to lay any more eggs. This is vouched for by the members of the family.



### ANN SENDING MONEY TO HER FATHER.

One day Holy Ann was telling us, that many years ago, and not very long after leaving Ireland and going to Canada, she had a dream, in which she saw her father sick at home in Ireland and in need. On awakening she told some friends, and perhaps her brother, that her old father was sick and needed money, but they thought it was a mere foolish notion. However, the matter weighed upon her and she dreamed it again. Then she determined to raise all she could from her wages and send it to him. She saw in her dream her father with long gray beard, reclining in bed, and noticed his appearance as if in distress. Her relatives said, "your father wears no beard but shaves clean." The money reached the old man just in time to alleviate want, and when they wrote back, sure enough he had allowed his beard to grow since his children had left Ireland, and as near as knowledge could be obtained, his exact appearance was what Ann had seen in her dream. The Holy Ghost said centuries ago, "your young men shall see visions, your

old men shall dream dreams." Granted that thousands of dreams are without significance, yet sometimes they are sent from God, either directly by the Holy Spirit, or instrumentally through our guardian angels who minister to us by day and night, and can touch our faculties in sleep more deftly than a musician can touch the keys of an organ. God certainly can speak to us along any line He chooses, whether waking or sleeping, and it is a joy to be utterly yielded to Him, and keep our attention on the alert whenever and in whatever way He may speak to us.



#### ANN AND THE RIGHT LORD.

While conversing with Holy Ann in Peterboro', she told us the following incident: One day some one gave her a newspaper and asked her to try to read it. But remember, Ann can read nothing except her Father's Word. However, she took the paper, but was holding it upside down, and she asked the Father that if the word Lord was in the paper to please guide her finger to the word. Sure enough the Father guided her finger to rest on the word Lord, and she slowly spelled the word out. But she did not feel her heart burn toward the word, and she inquired of some friend in the house to come and see what kind of a Lord it was, for she said, "My heart does not burn to it." Now the reader must remember that Holy Ann

is so filled with God that her soul is like a furnace, and every time that she hears God's name mentioned, or hears His pure word, she feels a hot sensation like a sweet fire in her heart, but this heat or glow is never felt toward anything that is not inspired. She feels this burning in her heart at hearing Wesley's hymns, or perfectly true preaching; but no such sensation toward many other hymns or toward preaching that is not in the Holy Ghost. Hence, when she found the word Lord in the newspaper and felt no warmth of heart, she inquired what kind of a Lord it was. Her friend looked at the paper and found it was Lord Roberts. Then Ann broke out in a hearty laugh, saying, "No wonder my heart did not burn to it, for he is only a man-made lord, and not my own Lord." Oh, how we could wish that every lover of Jesus, yes, even every one that is fully sanctified, was so dissolved in the spotless, tender love of God as to have that real heavenly flame of God's glory so filling the soul as to burn at the very mention of His blessed name.



### ANN'S LADDER VISION.

At one time it would seem that Satan tried to make Holy Ann an extreme Calvinist, and that she had got so far along in loving God, it would be impossible for her to fall. While in this frame of mind, she went off to her place in the woods to have a season of prayer, about

4 p.m. All at once she was caught away in a vision and saw a great ladder stretching up in the air, and saw herself nearly at the top, clinging to a rung. As she looked down, she became frightened, and saw how easy it was to fall. In this condition she began to cry mightily to her Father to hold her up. She says she can never tell the agony of soul she had during those moments in which she saw herself in such danger. What is still more remarkable, there was a very godly woman, one of Ann's friends, living near by, who had an overwhelming impression come upon her about 4 p.m. to go and pray earnestly for Ann, that she was in great danger. This Sister, Mrs. Dean, obeyed the impulse, and prayed for Ann, until she had the assurance that the danger was past. Ever since then nobody has been able to make Ann believe that it is impossible to fall from the highest states of grace. It would thrill you to hear her earnest exhortations to persevere, to give all diligence, to look every moment to Jesus, and hold out to the end.



#### ANN PRAYING THE DEMONS AWAY.

One day in Peterboro', Holy Ann was telling us of a time when she prayed for a poor sick girl who was possessed with demons, and had lived very wickedly. The girl was in bed, and did not seem very anxious to be saved, but Ann kept on pleading for Jesus to cast out the

demons. Suddenly, the girl cried out, "Oh, I see blood ! it is flowing down the wall," and Holy Ann jumped up and began shouting, "Take it ! take it ! it is the blood of Christ ; plunge in right now ;" and while she was shouting and praying and exhorting almost with the same breath, the poor girl was wonderfully delivered, and her soul was saved, and her body was healed. There are multitudes all about us, who are literally possessed of various kinds of demons, and how we need that firm grasp on Christ in believing prayer for the casting out of demons.



#### ANN PRAYING AWAY THE SMOKE.

In conversation with Holy Ann, she told us of a time when she was in the home of a sister on a wash day, and when the clothes were hung out on the line they were soiled by the smoke being blown on them from a great factory chimney near by. The sister requested Ann to pray the Lord to change the wind so the smoke would not soil her clothes. Ann prayed, and in a few minutes the wind changed and blew the smoke in the opposite direction. Then the sister felt uneasy, lest the soot might be blown on somebody else's wash, and spoke of it to Ann. Ann replied, "Our Father can't hold us responsible for all His providences, and it is the privilege for the other people to pray the same as for us. The smoke was hurting your



work, and Father has taken it away, so let us praise Him, and not let Satan get us into bondage."



### ANN AND THE WELL.

While Ann was servant at Dr.———, the well went dry, making it necessary for her to carry the water from a spring at some distance from the house. The children seeing Ann rub her aching arms, asked, "What is the matter?" Ann said, "My arms ache with bringing the water up the hill;" they said, "Ann, I thought your Father gave you everything you need, why don't He put water in the well?" Ann said, "Father do you hear that?" and that night she talked with Him, telling Him, "Father, if you put water in the well the dear children will be strengthened in faith." He assured her He would. So next morning Ann went to the well with her two pails, let one down (it worked with a windlass), and brought it up full, and from that on had all the water she needed. "When the poor and needy seek water," etc.—Isa 41. 17.



### ANN AND THE CHURCH.

When Ann was filled with the Spirit her mouth was so filled with praises, the Doctor said, "Ann, your only place is the church;" but soon there came a complaint from the church. Ann was dis-

turbing them ; her testimony gave offence. The Doctor said, "Ann, you must stay at home." Ann replied, "You told me, sir, I was fitted only for the church, and now you tell me to stay home." Sabbath morning came, and Ann, feeling sad, her Father said to her, "Come out to the orchard, I will be with you there." Ann sat under an apple tree, and said, "Father, dear, how is this ? I do not wish to hurt any of your children ;" her Father said, "Get up and shake the tree." Ann shook it ; He said, "shake it again, and again." Ann said, "What do you mean, Father ?" He said, "Did you do the tree any harm ?" Ann said, "No, Father ;" and as she noticed that a few dead limbs had fallen, she grasped the lesson, and clapping her hands with joy, said : "I see, I see, Father ; I did not hurt your own children, only those who have a name to live, but are dead. About this time her pastor, who had a great regard for Ann, was prevailed upon by certain parties in the church to advise Ann to keep quiet. Ann, who also had great confidence in her pastor, felt grieved, and could not understand how he could wish her to withhold her testimony, but looking to her Father, her only refuge, He showed her in a dream her pastor coming into her room, saying, "Ann, they are after you, jump from the window ; I have placed a feather-bed outside, so you won't be hurt ;" and right behind him and looking over his shoulder Ann saw a prominent official, and also a woman

of some influence in church work. Her pastor calling at the home Ann told him who it was that wanted her kept of some influence in church work. Her pastor looking the surprise he felt, said, "Ann, it won't do to meddle with you ; go on." "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."—1 Chron. 16. 22.



### AN OLD TIME METHODIST.

*To the Editor of the Christian Guardian :*

Dear Sir,—Ann Preston, or "Holy Ann," as she was commonly called, is now among God's sainted ones in the paradise of God. I knew her for fifty-six years. I wonder if some one will not attempt to unfold her lovely character. All who knew her, saint or sinner, had more than ordinary confidence in her devotion to her Father, to use a favorite word of the departed saint. Four years ago I had a visit from her. I heard her relate her religious experience in my own father's class when a mere boy fifty-six years since. You cannot feel surprised if I sometimes ask, Where the former days better than the present? While Sister Ann associated with the Mennonite and Salvation Army because of their fervor, she continued a loyal Methodist till the end of her marvellous life. As she had great confidence in any one who magnified the doctrine of perfect love, she nevertheless tested every experience and pretension by God's Word. She told

me she was almost carried away with Burnsism, but what opened her eyes was the pretence, that a man could be so holy as not to need the written Word. The last time I saw her in the house of God I called upon her to pray. Such a prayer! How she lifted the spiritual part of that congregation up, up to the very throne of the eternal Father. She was a living concordance. Some of my Methodist people who were seldom found in the house of God were so amazed that they wanted to know at once who she was and where she came from. Such Methodists had never heard one of those prayers in their life. A prayer-meeting to-day with half a dozen such men and women would bring a pentecost to any church. All the church, with its numerous appliances for usefulness, with its vast resources of money, gifts, and opportunities, is a return to apostolic prayers. I have no wish to go back to the past, when our church monopolized nearly all the evangelistic spirit that existed, but one thing is certain, that the opportunity, light, and privilege are greater than the appropriation of the same.

W. M. BIELBY.

Meaford.



Miss Preston, called Holy Ann passed away to Glory on the 21st day of June 1906. Ann was one of the most devoted Christians I ever knew. She walked with

God like Enoch of old and had this testimony that she pleased God. Her child-like faith was an inspiration to all that knew her. I have been acquainted with her for a number of years. She always testified to a free and full salvation. According to her testimony she must have enjoyed salvation 60 or 70 years and never lost her experience. Glory to God. The blessed Lord gave her strength to labor for the salvation of souls up to a few days before she went home to glory. She attended early prayer meeting and gave her testimony in Parliament Mission. I expect to meet Ann in Glory Hallelujah.

T. CLARK.



### "HOLY ANN" PRESTON DEAD.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF AGE—WAS A  
DEVOUT METHODIST.

Miss Ann Preston, the old lady who is said to be 100 years of age, died last evening at the home of Mrs. Pedlow, 211 Ontario street. The cause of death was the result of a stroke of paralysis, sustained while eating her breakfast on Tuesday morning. She was in possession of her faculties till death.

Miss Preston is known to Methodists in the States and Canada for her very pious life.

Many years ago deceased was brought out from Ireland by Dr. Reid, of Thornhill, in whose family she had been a servant. Though she never learned the al-

phabet she could read the Bible in a wonderful manner. Only last Sunday she read the lesson in Berkeley street Methodist Church. She knew the Bible almost by heart. It was the only book she could read.

Last year a little pamphlet was printed giving an account of some of the wonderful incidents of her life.

By many deceased was known as "Holy Ann."



## THRONGS AT FUNERAL OF MISS ANN PRESTON.

REMARKABLE TRIBUTE TO WELL-KNOWN WOMAN—BODY VIEWED BY HUNDREDS AT CHURCH.

Eloquent testimony to the remarkable character and popularity of the late Miss Ann Preston, who died on Thursday, has been forthcoming since her demise. Yesterday afternoon and evening the house was thronged with people of all classes who came to have a last look upon the face of this extraordinary woman. The majority of those who came to the home of Mrs. Pedlow, 211 Ontario street, where the body lay, were persons entirely unknown to Mrs. Pedlow and the more intimate friends of the late Miss Preston, and many were the stories related of her kindness of heart.

Berkley street Methodist church was filled this afternoon on the occasion of the funeral of the late Ann Preston (Holy Ann) which took place at 3

o'clock. For an hour before the service the remains were viewed by many who knew the old lady. Rev. M. L. Pearson, pastor, was in charge of the services. Among those who assisted were Col. Pugmire of the Salvation Army, who was present as the representative of Commissioner Coombes; Rev. John Salmon and Rev. G. E. Fisher.

Members of the family of Dr. Reed, who brought deceased to this country, were present.

The remains were interred in Mount Pleasant cemetery, in the family plot of Mrs. Pedlow, with whom Miss Preston lived at the time of her death.



#### PROMOTION OF GLORY TO HOLY ANN.

Our hearts were filled with sorrow when the information reached us that Ann had been stricken with paralysis, and could not live. That on Tuesday, and on the Thursday evening following she passed away. Her's was a wonderful life, having reached 100 years, and yet to see her in a meeting she might have been taken for very little more than half that age. She always had a gushing testimony and was filled with the love and power of God continually. She was a woman of great faith. She knew how to appropriate the promises of God, and as a consequence had many remarkable answers to prayer. She was a joyful Christian. We never remember her

being downcast and gloomy, but ever looked upon the brightest side. The joy of the Lord was her strength. She loved her Bible; it was her compass and comfort.

The funeral service was held in the Berkeley St., Methodist Church, which was the last place the dear old lady attended prior to her death. Hundreds of friends and sympathizers were present. For an hour before the service the remains were viewed by many who knew her. Commissioner Coombs and the Salvation Army were represented by Lieut.-Colonel Pugmire. The Colonel and Capt. Mardall sang together—

After which the Colonel made some kindly references to her life. Ann was very partial to the Commissioner, and used to call him "The man after God's own heart." At the time of her death and funeral he was out of the city, but a message was read from Mrs. Coombs by Colonel Pugmire as follows:

"Our departed sister was valiant for the truth—a real mother in Israel, a devoted Christian and follower of Jesus Christ. The world is poorer, but heaven is richer by her death."

The Rev. M. L. Pearson, Pastors Jno. Salmon and Rolfe, and others, spoke. It was a most impressive service. She looked beautiful as she lay peacefully in the casket, the plate of which read: "Ann Preston, aged 100 years."

The remains were interred in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, in the family plot of Mrs.



Pedlow, with whom Ann lived at the time of her death. She is absent from the body, but present with the Lord. We expect to meet her again in Glory.