

and about Abraham, but the record is "He went out." God's pull on his heart was greater than the pull of human arguments, or desire for immediate personal ease and advantage. That morning Abraham packed his tent and with his family said good-bye to his tribesmen. He entered as never before the school of faith; he travelled the way of faith; he was to live the life of faith, and thus become the progenitor of a new family. Those who have double vision, eyes in their soul and can "endure as seeing him who is invisible." Abraham's going out marked not only an epoch in his own life, but a great epoch in God's plan of redemption. The heart of God was made glad because he had found a man who could hear His voice and recognize it, and best of all, obey. Abraham was the man God has been looking for. He was to be the explorer of a new country, the faith country; he was to be an exponent of a new principle, and a witness to all generations of the faithfulness of God.

II.—But the text says, "Not knowing whither he went." There was a time when Abraham thought he could read his future quite accurately. Had he remained with his people he could, for he would have followed in his father's steps, lived and died just as his people did before, a monotonous life much like the brutes lived. The Arab's highest fellowship was with his cattle and his horses; Abraham's fellowship was to be with God. Cattle and horses were to be only incidental.

Abraham's ignorance of the future did not fill his heart with the spirit of uncertainty. God was making the programme; God was leading, and he could follow. This faith life was to be to Abraham one of surprises. He was surprised, no doubt, at times, because of his own weakness and failures, for there were some at the beginning of his career; and surprised too at the mercy, love and goodness of God. Abraham's life of faith was marred at times because he ceased to walk by faith and followed carnal sight. That was before God had given him the deeper revelation of His grace and love, and had commanded him to walk before Him "with a perfect heart."

While twice at least Abraham prevaricated, also through carnal desire to hasten God's plan, he became the father of a child that brought sorrow instead of joy, yet his faith reached the perfect state when he, in obedience to God's command, took Isaac, the child of promise, up to the lonely mount, and laid him upon the altar, a sacrifice to God. Though all his hopes were centred in the child, and though it seemed God was going to undo all that He had done, yet Abraham believed that God was able to raise the lad from the dead. "He staggered not." Abraham believed God and his faith was counted for righteousness.

The great achievements of history are due to the fact that men have caught a vision and followed, "not knowing whither they went."

This was the spirit that led Columbus over the sea. In the realm of science men dared to explore an unknown realm in spite of ridicule and persecution. We are reaping the benefit of their faith and sacrifice today.

The men who have truly heard the voice of God have had to break with their immediate surroundings at times or be unfaithful to the heavenly vision.

Probably the Reformation was as great a surprise to Luther as anybody else. When he defied the Pope, burning the papal bull, and nailing his theses to the door of the church at Wittenburg, he began a career the end of

which he could not see; he kindled the fires of a Reformation so great in its transforming power that one marvels that Germany has ever forgotten it.

Wesley knew he was in the will of God, but knew not whither he was going when he took his stand upon his father's tomb and preached the gospel that fully satisfied his own heart. After he had preached holiness for many years and had seen a little band become a multitude, there was in his heart a holy surprise at the mercy and faithfulness of God. From his death bed we hear him crying out, "What hath God wrought!"

Only a few years ago an eloquent and prominent Methodist preacher in a western conference was located because of his persistence in pressing the doctrine and experience of entire sanctification. He found himself without a church, but not without God. He hired a hall and began preaching full salvation. A church was organized. That was the beginning of a denomination which today numbers thirty thousand members, and with church property valued at one and a half million dollars; with many missionaries in various fields, and with several well equipped colleges and several ably edited papers. That dear brother did not know how God was going to lead, but he felt sure of victory.

So too we might recall the time when a few preachers in New Brunswick who professed entire sanctification were disfellowshipped by their denomination. They, with a number of lay members of like precious faith, found themselves without church home or church fellowship; but they believed in the leadership of the invisible God. They were put out and went out, and truly God has blessed and prospered in the propagation of this life and experience of which Abraham was an example.

The psalmist said: "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in men." Commit thy ways unto the Lord; trust also in him and he shall bring it to pass, and he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light and thy judgment as the noonday. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he will direct thy paths." God has proven himself so faithful with men since Abraham's time that faith ought to be easy today. True faith fills the soul with the spirit of certainty, even though a veil hangs over the future. The poet, watching the flight of a water fowl to a sunnier clime, cried out:

He who from zone to zone,
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,
In the long way that I shall treat alone
Will guide my steps aright."

Let the Christian walk by faith and not by sight, and he will soon find the blessed experience of a sanctified heart. The Israelites entered not in because of unbelief. They discredited the name and faith of Abraham.

Thank God for those who, independent of human teaching and leadership, have followed the Spirit of God and gained their heritage in the land of Canaan thank God for those who have mixed faith with the preached word and with like courage that filled Joshua's heart in days of old, have gone up to possess the land.

There were many to advise caution; others prophesied failure and defeat; still others laughed and ridiculed them as Pharisees, following the delusion of a proud heart. But they went up to possess the land. When we made our consecration we little knew what it involved; but we knew God was leading and He led by a sure way. Thank God for the goodly

land we hold today. God seems so real, Jesus so precious and Heaven so sure. We who have believed do enter into rest. Not the rest of Heaven, but the soul rest made possible by the eradication of inbred sin and the abiding presence of the Holy Ghost. So our hearts sing:

In heavenly love abiding,
No change my heart can fear,
And safe is such confiding,
For nothing changes here.
The storms may rage without me,
My heart may low be laid;
But God is round about me,
Nor can I be dismayed.

Wherever He may lead me
No want shall turn me back.
My shepherd is beside me,
And nothing can I lack.
His wisdom ever waketh,
His sight is never dim,
He knows the way He taketh,
And I will walk with Him.

Green pastures are before me
Which yet I have not seen;
Bright skies will soon be o'er me,
Where darkest clouds have been.
My hopes I cannot measure,
My path to life is free;
My Saviour is my treasure,
And He will walk with me.

CONVENTION CALL.

The Annual Convention of the New Brunswick Branch of the Dominion Temperance Alliance will be held at Y. M. C. A. Hall, Fredericton, Monday, Dec. 6th, 1915, at 8 o'clock p. m.

Object of the Convention: To bring together in deliberate convention the temperance workers of this Province in order—(a) to consider the temperance situation at the present time; (b) to formulate a definite policy leading to the entire prohibition of the liquor traffic; (c) to present this formulated policy to the Executive Government of the Province, which will be in session at the time of the Convention; (d) to transact the business of the Alliance and to perfect its organization as an effectual means of attaining the entire prohibition of the liquor traffic.

Basis of Representation: Churches of all denominations, temperance societies, W. C. T. U., Y. M. C. A., Labor Unions, or any other organizations in sympathy with the object of this convention, are entitled to send delegates. Delegates can secure standard certificates with their tickets and it is expected that ordinary railroad concessions can be secured.

Appeal to Workers: The present opportunity is without parallel in the history of the temperance cause in our Province. The time is ripe. Calls have come to our Executive from religious leaders and moral workers throughout the Province, urging that this convention be called, and we earnestly request the hearty co-operation of pastors, temperance workers and moral leaders in this crisis that victory may be secured.

C. W. Weyman,
A. C. M. Lawson, President.
Secretary.

QUARTERLY MEETING.

The next quarterly meeting of District No. 1 will be held with the church at Hartland on Thursday, Dec. 9th, at 7.30 p. m. Will the churches please send delegates and reports.

H. C. Archer, Secretary.