



MRS. J. L. BELYEA

ROCKDALE HOTEL  
Near Beulah Camp GroundDEACON J. L. BELYEA  
Proprietor of Rockdale Hotel

Brother Belyea was the first to draw attention to the site where Beulah Camp Ground is situated, and did much to encourage and help establish and develop this beautiful place where

many hundreds of people have listened to the preaching of full salvation, and have been made free from the bondage of sin and brought in to the glorious liberty of the sons and daughters

of the Almighty. Brother and Sister Belyea still retain their interest in Beulah and the cause of holiness, and are always ready to render any aid within their power.

#### THOUGHTS OF A BLIND MAN ON THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM.

By Henry C. Churchill.

"The Lord is my shepherd." What a comforting thought it is to know that we have one to care for us who never made a mistake. Jacob and David were the first to say that they were under the shepherd care of God. They both, having been shepherds themselves, seem as though their minds run in line with their occupation.

"I shall not want." It is said that there is one want that they who are under the shepherd care of God shall never know, and that is the want of rest. There is no part of us that needs rest so much as our spiritual nature. So I think this must mean rest of soul, for I believe I have seen Christian people so tired and worn in body that they could not rest, but they seemed to possess a soul rest. There is one thing necessary before we can rest, whether temporally or spiritually, and that is the assurance of safety. Take it temporally. We cannot rest while we are in danger; we must seek a place of safety as quickly as possible. Take it spiritually: We cannot rest unless we have faith to believe that the Lord is able to save and keep us. We do believe that He is able to keep us in perfect peace unto that day when He cometh to make up His jewels.

"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." Maketh me! This almost seems as if we were compelled to do things whether we wanted to or not. Let us look at it for a moment and see if we cannot explain it in a more satisfactory way. We will take for an illustration a hungry sheep; it is in vain for you to try to make it lie down; but let it go where the grass is green and tender and plenty of it, and after it has satisfied its hunger it will lie down contented. And so the Good Shepherd will lead us where there is plenty to satisfy our souls' need and cause us rather than compel us to lie down and abide in Him with satisfaction.

"He leadeth me beside the still waters." We can readily see that the Psalmist was acquainted with the habits of the sheep, for they are never known to drink from a rapidly running brook, where the water is foaming and dashing over the rocky bottom; but they seek the places where the water flows quietly along. How well the Good Shepherd knows where to lead His flock, where they can be shut in from the outside world and can hold communion with the Master. How needful are these quiet

seasons to our spiritual lives, when we can hear His gentle whisperings, "This is the way; walk ye in it." The closet seasons! How necessary these means of grace. If neglected we lose the joy out of our hearts, and His service will not be a pleasure.

"He restoreth my soul." I think this means He restoreth us to our former condition, which was a state of holiness and purity. We often hear people say, "I don't believe in holiness." If I did not believe in holiness I should think my chances of heaven were small. We are commanded to "follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man can see the Lord."

Hebrews 12, 14: "And be ye holy, for I am holy." The angels are holy and heaven is a pure place, nothing that is defiled can enter there. I am so glad that there is a fountain opened up in the house of David for sin and uncleanness, where we can wash and be made as if we had never sinned as far as salvation is concerned.

"He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake." "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof is the way of death." (Prov. 14, 12.) We do not like the sound of the word "death." It has a horror to our ears; but the ways of righteousness lead to eternal life. There are many by-paths and if we are not following the Good Shepherd we will be almost sure to get sidetracked. This is the devil's business. These paths lead to different places, such as the theatre, dance hall and card parties. We often hear it said "I can see no harm in these things." Let us see if they will stand the test, if we can follow these paths for His name's sake and for the glory of God, and not have any doubts about them; we might feel that they are all right, but if we have any doubts about them, let us give Him the benefit of them and be content to follow where He leads.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death." I used to think this meant the hour of death; it may; but it did not prove death to the Psalmist, as we will see a little farther on. I think that the dark valley experience comes to us all in life sometime and is intended for us as a means of grace. Truly it might be said of me that I am passing through a dark valley now—not a light anywhere to make a shadow—yet the Lord is with me; I will fear no evil. I expect some day to see the King in his beauty. It seems as though when the Psalmist approached the valley he

felt his need of getting nearer to his Lord. Up to that time he had been speaking of the Lord to another, making the Lord the third person; but when he came down to the valley, instead of using the word "he," he used the words "thou" and "thy," making the Lord the second person. It is good to talk of the Lord, but it is necessary that we should talk with Him.

"I will fear no evil, for thou art with me." When we are walking and talking with God we need fear no evil; but if we are walking with the world and our conversation is of the world, we will be sure to fall into sin.

"Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." I think this may apply to the word of God. I used to think that this rod meant the rod of correction. It may; some of us know by experience that there is not much comfort in this, but let us look at it as a rod of protection. I think we can draw some comfort from it.

There is a portion of the word which we can use as a weapon to put the enemy to flight, it is said to be the Sword of the Spirit. How necessary it is that we should be versed in the Scriptures to know how and when to use the weapon. Truly there is a portion of the Word that we can use as a staff to lean upon. The promises of God, how precious they are to the believer. What would we do in the time of trouble if it were not for this staff to lean upon?

"Thou preparest a table before me." The Psalmist is not dead. A dead man would not need a table prepared for him. We find him going on with renewed vigor, walking and talking with God. I think this table means a season of refreshing from God. A blessing always follows a great trial.

"In the presence of mine enemies." We wonder that a good man like David should have enemies. It has always been so; the best people in the world have enemies, and the more true they are the more bitter their enemies. So bitter were they that they sought their very life's blood. We are told that over seventy million have died martyr's deaths for Christ's sake.

"Thou anointest mine head with oil, my cup runneth over." This is a proof to me that David had just had a spiritual uplift. Dear reader, how long since you have had an overflowing cup? If we do not occasionally, we are living beneath our privileges. Do not think that the overflow goes to waste, it will be used to help some poor struggling soul.

(Continued on page 5.)