

NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS

By W. Edmund Smith

We read in the gospels of some very humble and obscure people who, (I say it reverently), gave Jesus a thrill because of their heroic faith and sacrifice.

There was that poor widow, who in the presence of those ostentatious Pharisees, slipped her two mites into the treasury and received the commendation of Jesus, "She has cast in more than they all."

Then there was that woman who came as Jesus sat at meat, and broke the alabaster box of precious ointment upon his head, which incurred the displeasure of Judas who protested against such waste.

But Jesus said, "She has done a good work, and this deed of hers will be told as a memorial of her wherever this Gospel is proclaimed."

That was a marvellous triumph of faith on the part of that poor Gentile woman who came to Jesus pleading for help for her daughter. Jesus seemed to rebuff her when he said, "It is not meet to take the children's bread and cast it unto dogs."

Hear this wonderful come-back! "Truth Lord but the dogs eat of the crumbs that fall from the table." No wonder Jesus said, "I have not found so great faith no not in Israel."

We do not have the names of any of these women, but we may rest assured that their names are written large in the Lamb's Book of Life. And I think perhaps opposite their respective names will be the testimony Jesus gave when he saw what they had done.

And such people are living today; people of the same humble, sacrificial, believing spirit.

I know a little man in a little N. B. town, who I believe makes glad the heart of Jesus today as did those good women in the days of his flesh.

This little man is just 80 years old. That looks very old on paper. It almost frightens some of us old fellows to write down the figures of our ages. They seem to tell us that we ought to be walking with a cane, refraining of course from baseball and all vigorous sports and to be really careful as to how we draw our breath.

Not so this good old brother. He has ever been a quiet little man but has taken his place in society; has brought up a good family, all of whom are doing well. And he has paid all his debts and can "look the whole world in the face for he owes not any man."

This brother gets the old-age pension, and none deserves it more than he. But he is not satisfied to sit and merely breathe his life away. He is today full of days' work. Last Fall he picked up about 1700 bbls. of potatoes, and did not play himself out. Now that "digging time" draws near (forgive the crude expression), "he is champing the bit" and "a rarin' to go."

Some will say "what an avaricious old man to be so hard after the dollar!" This is the explanation: He said, "Brother Smith, I get along on just as little as I can and find joy in giving all the rest to the Lord."

The treasurer of the missionary society told me like this, "It touches my heart to receive so regularly the contributions of this dear old brother. I know that it means sacrifice. He is laying up treasure in heaven."

Part of this good old brother's work is to care for the little church in which he is a real

pillar. All the reward he gets is the blessing of the Lord. He says, "Some may complain and say it is too hot, and others that it is too cold, but I just go on and do the best I can and most of the folks are satisfied."

In that great day when recognition is given in glory, I am sure that this dear brother will rank among illustrious men of whom I have spoken. He will sit down with the Greater Moses and with Elijah, with Paul and with John Wesley. How glad the latter will be to see this little man whom many did not know down on earth! Did not Mr. Wesley give as his doctrine of giving, "Make all you can; save all you can, and give all you can!"

I hope these few words will stir up some dear old tight-wad who is canning most of what he gets and is giving as little as he can, to loosen up. Give all to God and he will surely bless. You'll draw great dividends if you all invest.

Perhaps Jesus is saying today, "I have not found the like of that little man amongst all the Reformed Baptists in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia or Maine."

OBSERVATIONS IN A RESTAURANT

It's sad to see a lot of girls like coarse and hardened vets,

A sippin' beer and laughin' and smokin' cigarettes.

It's worse to see a mother—now please don't think me rude—

With children in a restaurant a smokin' with her food.

But the worstest thing that I have seen in North or in the South

Is smoke that comes a puffin' from a grandma's painted mouth.

It's hard to talk of evil things; I'd rather write of good;

But we must make our protest 'gainst degraded womanhood.

We are living in wonderful days. The other day Brother and Sister Parks hopped on a plane and in a comparatively few hours had landed in South Africa, a distance of many thousand miles; a journey which usually takes several weeks by ordinary ocean travel.

The out-going of this young couple is a challenge to our church. We must hold them up by fervent intercessory prayer. This will hearten them as will nothing else. I challenge every Reformed Baptist and those who are the friends of holiness, to make our South African Missionaries the daily subjects of their prayers. Thank God for the ministry of intercession, and this will be ours in proportion as the Holy Ghost dwells in our hearts. We shall pray more for others than for ourselves. How our souls get blessed as we remember all those on our prayer list day by day, and we keep adding to the number. Yes, and if we pray we will give to the limit of sacrifice and find great joy in it all.

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The leader of the American delegation of the UN is strongly urging that a few minutes of silent prayer be observed at the opening of the sessions of the UN. Some are objecting as we might expect. All religion to Russia is a stultifying opiate. We do well to pray for the UN and for all the leaders of government. Paul urged this and we fail utterly to observe it in our holiness camp meetings and churches. When did we ever pray in public for the King of England, the Premier of Canada or the

President of the U. S. A. In Paul's day the abominable Nero was the emperor of Rome yet Paul wrote "Let every soul be subject to the higher powers for there is no power but of God and the powers that be are ordained of God; he that resisteth power resisteth the ordinance of God."

Surely our national leaders are far above Nero in their moral and spiritual character. I think that on the whole they do as well as we would do were we in their places of temptation and power. If we put them on our prayer lists it will please God.

LIFE'S PROBLEMS

By R. Barclay Warren

Who, on occasions, doesn't face grim problems? Indeed, it is often remarked, "It never rains but it pours". When you battle bravely with life's problems which threaten to get you down, remember that others have problems too. You are not alone. Think of Jacob fleeing from home and later meeting an angry brother with an army; Joseph in a foreign prison; David hunted by a wicked king; Elijah pursued; Daniel in the lions' den; John the Baptist in prison for condemning the sin of the adulterous king and Paul in prison for preaching the Gospel. If we could only solve the problem—social, financial, or whatever it be—by one swift stroke, but so often we must wait. Or if we only knew how it would ultimately be solved, it would help. Instead, patience is exercised to its extremity. But others have been patient in tribulation; they have trusted God when there was no help in sight. Let us do that too.

When perplexed, don't act rashly. What seems to be an easy way out may be a blind alley. Hold steady. Perhaps there is no better advice than that given by the Psalmist: "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." Ps. 27:14.

THE GREATEST THING—A PURE HEART

It's a great thing to be forgiven—to be in the old seat by the hearth-fire, the old score wiped off the slate, the heavy heart lightened, the Father smiling gently into your eyes. But there's something more and yet better—to be cleaned up inside; the bad taken out, washed out, and a new clean inside put in you. Jesus does both, though it cost Him His life to do it.—S. D. Gordon.

WEDDINGS

Hayes — Brown

On July 20th, 1949, Flora May Olga Brown was united in marriage to Thomas Leslie Hayes. The ceremony was performed by Rev. B. M. Hicks at the bride's home in Woodstock, N. B.

Stephenson — Seeley

At the Reformed Baptist Parsonage, Woodstock, N. B., Glenna Mae Seeley was united in marriage to Eugene Allan Stephenson on August 18th, 1949. Rev. B. M. Hicks performed the ceremony.

Cronkhite — Connors

June Elizabeth Connors was united in marriage to Darrell Ernest Cronkhite at the Reformed Baptist Parsonage, Woodstock, N. B. The ceremony took place on August 25th, 1949, and was performed by Rev. B. M. Hicks.