

AN UNUSUAL BOOK

On the rostrum of Wesley's Chapel, just behind and to one side of John Wesley's pulpit, a book lay open upon a table. A pen lay alongside of the book and on the leaf of the book were several names written. I thought at first it was a visitors' register, but then I realized it was not large enough for that and there were not enough names written for all the many, many visitors who pass through the famous chapel. Turning back a leaf or two, I saw, typewritten on one page a "Prayer for Revival," and a request for any who would solemnly covenant to pray for revival, to sign their name in the book. Here is the prayer:

"Almighty God, who didst raise up Thy servants John and Charles Wesley, to proclaim anew the gift of Redemption and the life of Holiness, be with us, their children, and revive Thy work among us; that, inspired by the same faith and upheld by the same grace in word and sacrament, we, and all Thy people may be made one in the unity of Thy Church on earth, even as in Heaven we are made one in Thee; through Jesus Christ, our Lord—Amen."

My immediate reaction was to take up the pen and sign the book. So my name, in solemn covenant with others from different parts of the world, lies along side of Wesley's pulpit. For months, as many can witness, I had joined with members of my congregation, and with tongue and pen, I had urged others to pray for just such revival as, under God, broke the awful spiritual darkness over England, through the labors of the Wesleys and their followers, in the 18th century. Dear reader, will you read that prayer again, and then again, very slowly and thoughtfully, and ask yourself, would I have signed that solemn covenant if I had been there? You may never have the privilege of doing just that, but will you join with that host, who throughout the world, earnestly, persistently pray that it may please God, in the midst of an age of otherwise insoluble problems, to send us a gracious, Holy Ghost revival of pure religion? And will you pray that the revival may be in your own heart and that God may use you in any way to extend such a revival? I believe many of you will.—Canadian Free Methodist Herald.

KEEP WARM

Doctors tell us that when the body becomes chilled, the ever-present germs of various diseases find their chance to develop. To keep warm is one of the soundest rules of health. The analogy holds good in the spiritual state. When faith and love grow cold, temptations attack the soul in ever-growing numbers. We must keep up the warmth of zeal and consecration if we are to be strong and healthy Christians. To exercise ourselves daily in some service for God is a good way to keep warm. Are we trying it?—Forward.

"Cast the mantle of forgiving love over the circumstances that might injure the cause of God."

Let me give you the sweet words my mother used to speak as the talismanic charm to still my turbulent spirit in girlhood days: "Hath any wronged thee? Be bravely revenged. Slight it, and the work's begun; forgive it, and 'tis finished."

—Frances E. Willard.

"MAKE ME A BURNING BUSH"

Moses must have been discouraged and disgusted as he sat by the well in Midian (Exod. 2:15). Why should he not be? He had been forced to flee from his palace home of royal luxury, from the land of his miraculous birth and infancy—all because he had tried to do a good deed for a brother. He had been misunderstood and misrepresented. Life now in a strange foreign land, in vast contrast to that which Moses had known, must have presented a dark picture, indeed. The course of events which followed led him out to the back side of the desert, apart from civilization.

Moses spent many days, yea, many months and years, out in that lonely desert. Perhaps many times despondency and nostalgia had seized him and threatened him with despair. No doubt the devil tormented him and accused him. Had he not meant well? Was not his motive right? He had chosen rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the pleasures and treasures of Egypt, had he not? Was that not a heroic choice? But wait! He had taken some matters into his own hands—he had set out to straighten out some things, and he would do it in his own crude manner. To put it into modern terms, he had made a mess of things, even though his motives had been right. This had brought him out where he could get some effective wilderness schooling which would make of him a humble, mild-tempered leader who would move only in the strength of his God—he would take orders from above. Oh, how many well-meaning people today are victims of self! They are enslaved subjects of inward tyrannical forces of temper and appetite. Many are prematurely driven into the very jaws of death, seemingly unable to gain mastery over self. Multiplied thousands today are groping about in a desert, spiritually, and in a wilderness of sin, striving to appease the unceasing demands of insistent inward passions. Yea, they have gone to the far side of the desert, and beyond. Their souls are ill with thirst which desert sands can never quench. They are on the path that leads away from civilization. What will it take to arrest them—to get them to stop? What was it that brought Moses' weary and lonely desert trail to an abrupt ending? It was the great "I AM."

God had appeared in a burning bush. Moses had been by nature impetuous and quick-tempered, but now, like Saul of Tarsus, he was humbled with his face in the dust, and God was doing the talking. His long years of schooling were finished, and this was his commencement day. But what was so unusual about a burning bush? Had he not seen the parched, dry sagebrush catch fire on the desert many times before? Yes, but this was very different. This bush was on fire, but was not consumed. This drew his attention, for it was not an ordinary sight. It was not the size of the bush which drew his attention. It was not the beauty of its foliage, and it was not its fine location or its beautiful environment. It was on fire—a strange and glorious fire, which did not consume. That was what caused Moses to stop and turn aside. It was then that God spoke. Yes, God will speak today when men stop and turn aside!

The challenge comes to us: Are we putting on exhibition the holy fire which alone can stop a groping, sin-sick world, which now is out on the far side of the bleak desert of sin? Are we waiting to gain more size or beauty, a better situation or more congenial environ-

ment? God, help us to let that attractive Holy Ghost fire shine forth from our lives to arrest those who need to be tempered and used as leaders in the rescue of the multitudes in bondage today. The primary need of the hour is not for more magnificent churches, a more ritualistic program, nor for a modernized philosophy of religion, but it is for humble blood-washed saints who are beaming with Holy Ghost fire and are willing to go out into the desert places of earth, each to become a burning bush for God.—The Church Herald.

ON KEEPING HOLY

We do not know who is the author of the following hints, but the advice is good.

If you are impatient, sit down quietly and talk with Job.

If you are just a little strong-headed, go and see Moses.

If you are getting weak-kneed, take a good look at Elijah.

If there is no song in your heart, listen to David.

If you are a policy man, read Daniel.

If you are getting sordid, spend a while with Isaiah.

If you feel chilly get the beloved disciple John to put his arms around you.

If your faith is below par, read Paul.

If you are getting lazy, watch James.

If you are losing sight of the future, climb up the stairs of Revelation and get a glimpse of Heaven.—Selected.

BE SOBER, BE VIGILANT

I Peter 5:8

Jesus says, "Salute no man by the way." Luke 10:4. When people come to "Pass the time of day," in idle, senseless, useless, unprofitable conversation or argument—do as Romans 12:21 says, "Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good." Get them down to prayer. Say, "Let us pray." Then get down on your knees and pour out your heart before God (Psalm 62:8). This is one way to SET YOUR FACE TO SEEK GOD!

Mean business with God. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that devils are cast out. (Matt. 12:28) "Be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18). BELIEVE what Jesus says—that God GIVES the Holy Spirit to them that ASK for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13). Believe that God GIVES the Holy Ghost to them that OBEY Him (Acts 5:32). "RECEIVE ye the Holy Ghost" (John 20:22).

—Selected.

OUTLAW MASS MURDER

Church and laymen in widely divergent areas are of one mind about the genocide pact lately adopted by the United Nations convention. It seeks to outlaw mass murder on grounds of creed, race, or nationality. Murder is regarded as the ultimate evil, but mass murder—we think of the Nazis gas chamber—is infinitely worse. It may be argued that an individual may, under certain circumstances, forfeit his life. That a race should be exterminated is unthinkable. Every Christian worthy the name should in his heart endorse this pact. And the supreme legislatures of all nations should endorse it forthwith. The usual regard for legalisms such as a fear that it would infringe upon our national sovereignty, would be disgraceful.—The Christian Citizen.