

The Triumphant Tract!

Herbert Lockyer

Without doubt, the victorious conquests of tracts are amazing. Once so poorly written, badly printed, seldom circulated, despised and rejected by Christians in general, tracts have come into their own as messengers of the King, and have a sale which is phenomenal.

Whoever wrote the first tract deserves a niche in the Hall of Fame.

"Someone once gave H. L. Hastings' lecture on *The Inspiration of the Bible* to four infidels at different times. All four were converted and became ministers of the Gospel in four different denominations.

"Many decades ago a lady gave a leaflet to two actors. One of the actors, led by this tract to attend church and so become converted, was Dr. George Lorimer, pastor of Tremont Temple in Boston. Through his influence, Dr. Russell H. Conwell was led into the ministry. Thus the Baptist Temple in Philadelphia, together with the work of the Tremont Temple, and the personal influence of these two notable pulpit speakers, is traceable to one little leaflet in the hands of a woman."

A young Frenchman, wounded at the siege of Saint Quentin was languishing in the hospital, when a tract that lay on the coverlet caught his eye. He read it and was converted through it. The monument of that man may be seen before the Church of the Consistory in Paris, standing with a Bible in his hand—Admiral Coligny, the leader of the Reformation in France.

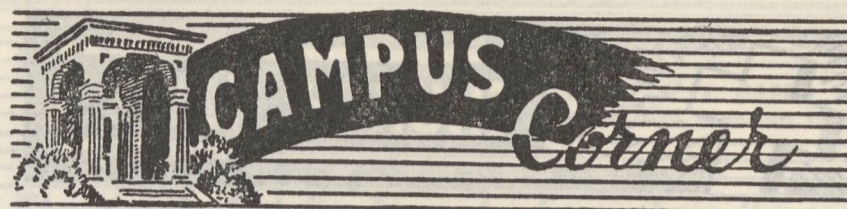
But the tract had not yet finished its work. It was read by Coligny's nurse, who penitently placed it in the hands of the Lady Abbess and she, too, was converted by it. She fled from France to the Palatinate, where she met a young Hollander and became his wife. The influence which she had upon that man reacted upon the whole continent of Europe, for he was William of Orange, who became the champion of liberty and Protestantism in the Netherlands.

Here are some further romantic histories of tracts gathered from various sources. The marvelous China Inland Mission, whose God-honoring work among the millions of China is known all over Christendom, owes its existence to a tract. When Dr. J. Hudson Taylor, its founder, was fourteen years of age, he was led to Christ by reading a Gospel tract which had been left on a table in his own home.

A number of years ago, after the American Tract Society had established a small printing press in Japan to publish tracts directly on the field for that needy country, a teen-age girl wrote: 'Small piece of paper can lead to God. I was unknwn girl, but when I heard preach I became to know more better about the Lord and I cried for His generosity and His eternal love. I was saved completely. You made me to say Galatians 2:20 that my faith becomes more clear. I give message to my village people. I pray all become Christians.'

A letter received from the Society's representative two years later was full of rejoicing at God's faithfulness and grace. He said: "You remember the girl who said, 'Small piece of paper can lead to God'. She is at the Bible School now, and last month her father wrote that he wanted to come to see me. The man had no peace until he confessed his sins in my office, after hearing a converted Shinto priest give his testimony. He asked us to come to his home with him to help him burn his idols. We went the next day and found that he was the head of his village, and the local Shinto priest as well. He was highly respected and now when the people ask him why he has taken down his gods, he testifies to them concerning salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ. His wife

The King's Highway



AS BETHANY GROWS

Bethany Bible College is suffering "growing pains!" A record enrollment has taxed the school facilities. The students are literally crowded in. Dormitory space, classroom space, dining hall space — all inadequate.

But Bethany is also growing in its prestige and influence. Young people are here from many communities and areas outside of our denominational constituency, and they represent a number of different church groups.

Curricular growth is also noted at Bethany. New subjects are being added, new departments established. Mr. Maurice Patton is building a music department that is destined to be a very vital phase of Bethany's training service.

As Bethany grows our church will grow. As the scope of Bethany's influence enlarges, the boundaries of our denominational work are broadened, actually or potentially. As training standards are elevated, the quality of spiritual life and service in our churches will rise. But enlargement entails added responsibility. If Bethany is to increase in stature, and there are good prospects of this trend continuing, the price of progress must be paid. As the student body grows, so must the faculty. An increased enrollment demands additional space, more rooms and enlargement of some now in use. Better equipment for better teaching is a must.

What is happening at Bethany is normal and desirable. Growth is the natural result of a healthy condition. Recession would be fatal and tragic.

May our vision be for unrestricted expansion. Bethany will continue to grow if our interest grows with it.

- B. C. Cochrane

and a grandmother in the home have been saved, too"...

And then, have you heard of the miracle of *The Bruised Reed*? A man named Richard Gibbs once wrote a tract entitled *The Bruised Reed*. This was given by a peddler to a boy named Richard Baxter, and he was brought to Christ. Richard Baxter wrote *A Call to the Unconverted*, which was the means of the conversion of Philip Doddridge, and also William Wilburforce, the eminent British statesman.

Baxter's booklet, *A Call to the Unconverted*, so moved Leigh Richmond that he wrote *The Dairyman's Daughter*, of which an interesting story is told. When Dr. Goodell of the American Board of Missions was passing through Nicodamia in 1932, having no time to stop, he left with a stranger a copy of *The Dairyman's Daughter* in the Armenian-Turkish language. Seventeen years later he visited Nicodamia, and found a church of more than forty members, and a Protestant community of more than two hundred.

"Thus," as Dr. Panton expresses it, "the printed page never flinches, never shows cowardice, is never tempted to compromise; it never tires, never grows disheartened; it travels cheaply, and requires no hired hall; it works long after we are dead.

"The printed page is a visitor which gets inside the home and stays there. It always catches a man in the right mood, for it speaks to him only when he is reading it. It always sticks to what it has said, and never answers back. And it is bait left permanently in the pool...It floats over the world."

One could go on indefinitely proving how tracts float

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