

THE SUMMONS

The life that is tollsome and rugged, I well understand. But the one who is summoned must answer the call of the land.

The said bills were up at the Corners: two gray speck one bay. A dozen fine butter-bred Jerseys—the same they all say.

We were threshing at Conrad's that morning. The life of dawn spread golden before the pale silver of moonlight was gone.

The prairie was rousing, teams harnessed and breakfasts were done. And, kindling a path through the stubble, there rose the red sun.

While shrill through the silence breeze lifted, and, keen above all, the thresher's call.

All men in their hearts are but children. And the best of them, now and then, to a lump in the throat.

And I felt without shame at that white thrill of my own. The stirrings of boyhood, which manhood had never outgrown.

So we sat on our grain racks and waited the gathering crew. And gazed at the board of the acres as farmers will do.

While Moran, a veteran pitcher, looked over the field. And, from his sage wisdom predicted a bountiful yield.

Gold bundles leaped up through the sunshine to build up a load. Some tourists slowed down in their passing to gaze from the road.

A quail fluted clearly. The stacker passed slowly, and then the thresher sent out his long summons—the whistle for men.

The strangest of all God's creations, the heart in man's breast. From his place on the stack Dennis printed and called to the rest.

A gray team was coming and coming along at a trot. And the driver's life grants us some rights that are never forgot!

Sure-footed, face lifted, stood Eldon upon the long frame. And his weathered brown features were working as loving he came.

Man, a radiance touched him; 'twas like he had visioned a Grail. And one hand clenched a crushed sheaf of papers—the bills of his sale.

He drew up among us in silence, and down his rough cheek a tear ploughed its difficult furrow before he could speak.

And then: "Lads, some bonds may be severed and us no harm. But God forged the leather that fastens my heart to my farm."

I thought, single-handed, to break it and then through the dawn. I harked to the call of the harvest—and could not go on.

'Tis a life that is tollsome and rugged, I well understand. But the ones who are summoned must answer the call of the land.

So, testing to cover a tremor, we drove down the lane. All hands to the field—for the thresher had whistled for grain.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

From the Issue of The Free Press of Thursday, October 23, 1913

Action sent a big delegation to Erin Fall Fair last Friday.

Mr. Jeremiah Bell has purchased a lot on Knox Avenue, and will build a double house there.

Mr. John Crawshaw, of the second line, requesting, has been offered a handsome price for his stone quarry.

Mr. Harold Wiles is adding a 5, 10 and 15 cent department to his store, with the usual assortment of novel and useful articles. The opening takes place Saturday.

Mr. A. M. McPherson met with gratifying success with his two-year-old gelding in the Agricultural Class at the various Fall Fairs this fall.

Mr. John D. Bauer has disposed of his express and cartage business to Mr. Nelson F. Moore, who has been with Beauty Bros., Ferguson, for several months.

The annual High School concert last Wednesday evening was a great success. The programme was given by John B. Baker and Miss Beatrice Grams.

Both artists from the Redpath Bureau, Rev. C. D. Draper presented the certificates and diplomas to the students.

The first real cold weather came with the present week. The low temperatures and the snow flurries indicate that winter is coming.

DIED—In Trafalgar on Friday, October 17, 1913, George Buck, in his 79th year.

McKENZIE—At Oshpige, on Wednesday, October 15, 1913, Mrs. John McKenzie, of lot 14, concession 1, Erin, aged 53 years.

Cheapest of All Oils.—Considering the qualities of Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil it is the cheapest of all preparations offered to the public. It is to be found in every drug store in Canada from coast to coast and all country merchants keep it for sale.

THE GENTLEMAN

"My own idea," he says, "is that neither birth, nor riches, nor education, nor manners suffice to constitute a gentleman, and that specimens are to be found at the plow, the loom, the forge, in the ranks, before the mast, as well as in the officers' mess rooms, the learned professions and the upper house itself. A gentleman is courteous, kindly, brave and high-principled, considerate toward the weak and self-possessed among the strong. High-minded and unselfish, he does to others as he would they should do to him, and shrinks from the misapprehension of taking advantage of his neighbor, a maid or woman, friend or foe, as he would from the contamination of covardice, duplicity, tyranny, or any other base-gardens."—G. Whyte-McVilly.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

PAUL IN ASIA MINOR

Golden Text.—And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation.—Mark 16: 15.

Lesson Text.—Acts 13: 1-5, 13-15; 14: 19-23. Study, also, Acts 13: 1-52.

Time.—A. D. 45. Places.—Antioch, Salamis, Antioch in Pisidia.

Exposition.—I. Barnabas and Saul called by the Holy Spirit, set apart by men, sent forth by men and by the Holy Spirit, 1-5.

The church at Antioch had five "prophets and teachers" worthy of mention by name. This early Gentile church became a fountain of light and life to many other places.

The Holy Ghost spoke to them: "AS THE MINISTERS TO THE LORD AND FASTED." A Spirit-filled mind rarely accompanies an over-filled stomach.

Greater simplicity in our living would be conducive to a clearer perception of the mind of God. It is not said how the Spirit spoke, whether in an audible voice, or silently, in the inner recesses of the heart; but He spoke in an unmistakable way. He is ready to speak to-day, if we will supply the proper conditions and He will.

It was the Holy Spirit's work to call; it was man's work to recognize the call, and set the call apart for the work.

Those who ignore ordination by men are as unscriptural as those who ignore a call by God. But it was "for the work wherunto" the Spirit called that they were to be set apart.

Every step in that early Church was taken in prayer. And it was no mere formal prayer. It was prayer to which men gave themselves so heartily that they withdrew themselves even from their necessary food, to pursue it (v. 9).

The promptness with which this Church obeyed the Spirit's command is worthy of note. He had demanded the best they had, for the foreign mission field, and they gave them up without a murmur.

They would have liked to have kept Barnabas and Saul, but the Spirit called them "elsewhere," and "they sent them away." But, while they sent them, they were really "SENT FORTH BY THE HOLY GHOST." No directions seem to have been given as to where they were to go; so they made straight for the nearest port and thence for the old home of Barnabas (ch. 4: 36). They were true to their commission: "THEY PREACHED THE WORD OF GOD." If there was ever a day in which their example needed imitation, it is to-day, when men are preaching anything and everything but "the Word of God" (Comp. 1 Thes. 2: 13; 2 Tim. 4: 2).

II. Paul's Methods, 13-15. Missionary work was too hard for John Mark, but the day came when Mark did better (cf. ch. 15: 38, 39; Col. 4: 10; 2 Tim. 4: 11). Paul always sought the synagogue on the Sabbath Day (v. 14). It was there he could meet the people and preach Jesus to them. Paul, like Peter on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2: 14-34), and Stephen before the council (Acts 7: 2-49), began his sermon with an exposition of Old Testament Scriptures and Jewish history, but uses all to lead up to Christ.

III. Many Jewish Converts and Much Opposition, 14: 19-23. Paul made it plain as day that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God (v. 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37) that God raised Him from the dead and thus fulfilled the promise made unto the fathers (vs. 32, 33), and that "by him every one that believeth is justified from all things" (vs. 38, 39). This sermon produced immediate and abundant fruit. The converts were of two classes, regular Jews and proselytes. Paul and Barnabas (it is no longer Barnabas and Paul) followed up their work by words of private instruction and exhortation. The substance of their exhortation was to steadfast continuance (cf. John 8: 31, 32; 15: 5-10; Acts 11: 23; 14: 22; Col. 1: 23). The sphere of their steadfast continuance was to be "the grace of God." It was pure grace that Paul taught (vs. 38, 39; Romans 3: 24; 11: 6; Eph. 2: 8), and it is only in grace that one can "continue" or "stand" (Romans 5: 2; Gal. 5: 1, 4). The word of God mightily prevailed, the whole city was shaken and "almost the whole city" came to hear. What they heard was "the word of God" (cf. 2 Tim. 4: 2; 1 Thes. 2: 13), and that was what they came to hear. The great crowds awakened the jealousy of the Jews (cf. 17: 5). Human nature is pretty much the same in all lands and all ages; let a new preacher come to any city to-day and draw great crowds of eager hearers, where crowds have been hitherto small and interest feeble, and somebody's jealousy is pretty sure to be aroused. Opposition did not frighten Paul and Barnabas. It made them the more bold. The word of God, according to God's order, must "first be spoken" unto the Jew (v. 28; Luke 24: 47; Acts 3: 26; 18: 5, 6; Romans 1: 16). But as they would not have it, it was given to others (Romans 15: 21), and by Christ (Matt. 21: 43). "A man settles his own destiny by what he does with the word of God" (John 8: 40). The Lord had "commanded" Paul to go to the Gentiles. He had given him this commandment before he left Jerusalem (ch. 22: 17-21). This commandment was also implied in Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah, which foretold that He was to be for the Gentiles (vs. 47; cf. Is. 49: 6). "Unto the ends of the earth" the finger of God always pointed, and the grace of God always strove (cf. ch. 1: 8; Matt. 28: 19). The Gentiles glorified the Word of God that the Jews despised. The practical evidence, then, that any one is ordained to eternal life is that he believes (v. 48).

ADAPTATION OF CROPS

There are some crops which are not well suited to very fertile soils, buckwheat, for example, often produces too much straw and too little grain on rich soils, especially those soils which are very high in nitrogen. Oats are likely to lodge badly on soils too rich in yields of wheat and barley. They will grow well on rich soils but it is also a particularly good crop for light, infertile soils. Turnips require a fairly fertile soil but, if the soil is unbalanced in its fertility by having an over-abundance of nitrogen in comparison with other elements of fertility, there will be luxuriant tops but small roots.—Dominion Department of Agriculture.

FIRST TRANS-ATLANTIC STEAMER

This year marks the centenary of the first crossing of the Atlantic Ocean by a vessel using steam all the way. The historic voyage was made by a Canadian-built wooden paddle-steamer, the Royal William. To commemorate this notable event the Canadian Post Office Department issued, on August 17, a special postage stamp.

The Royal William, built at Quebec, was launched in April, 1831, and towed to Montreal to be fitted with engines developing 200 horse-power. Her cost, when ready for sea, was \$75,000. Her dimensions were: length over all, 176 feet; depth of hold, 18 feet; breadth over paddleboxes, 44 feet. She was originally intended to ply between Montreal and Quebec and Nova Scotia, and the enterprise of building her was carried out by a group of Quebec and Halifax merchants, assisted by a grant of \$15,000 from the Government of Lower Canada.

Among the shareholders appear the names of three Cunard brothers, one of whom later founded the present Cunard Line.

After three moderately successful voyages in 1831 to Halifax and intermediate ports she laid up for the winter. In 1832, owing to a cholera epidemic, she made only one voyage, and her owners became bankrupt.

In the spring of 1833 a new company was formed, which purchased the vessel and, for a time, used her for towing and local excursions. Then, in June, 1833, she sailed on a trip to Boston, where she was enthusiastically received as being the first steamship flying the Union Jack to enter a United States port.

On her return to Quebec her owners decided to send her to England for sale. It was on this voyage that she made history, demonstrating to the world the feasibility of navigating the oceans by means of steam-propelled vessels, notwithstanding the declaration of critics that "they might as well talk of making a voyage from Quebec to the moon."

Early in August, 1833, she left Quebec for Pictou, in the Northumberland Strait, where she remained a few days coaling, storing, repairing engines, and awaiting passengers. Eventually, on August 17, she steamed out of Pictou Harbor for England. Her clearance papers stated she was a vessel of 363 tons bound for London, that among the goods carried were 254 chaldrons of coal (648 tons), a consignment of ship's stores, a box of stuffed birds, one harp, one box, one trunk, household furniture and seven passengers, all British. Her master was John McDougall. During the voyage the starboard engine was disabled and on May 5, 1836, in the Bay of San Sebastian, she earned the distinction of being the first steamer of war to fire a hostile shot. In 1840 she was sent to Bordeaux for repairs but was converted into a hulk. Her engines were transferred to a new ship of the same name, which ultimately sank off the Algerian coast during a violent storm in 1860.

And so, with her hull rotting in Bordeaux harbor, and her engines lying at the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea, the Royal William ended her distinguished and varied career.

A memorial tablet in the Canadian House of Commons commemorates the first trans-Atlantic voyage by the Royal William.

THE GREATEST VICTORY

Some one has called the conquest of worry the greatest victory of life. Most of you know that it is not an easy victory. You realize that it is useless to worry about that which cannot be helped, and yet you keep right on doing it. Worry has a way of taking hold of an unfortunate situation and making it seem a thousand times worse. It paints the universe black. Nothing is so sure to paralyze initiative as worry. Nothing is more successful in cheating you out of success and happiness.

If you can conquer worry in your life, you can conquer anything. If you win that one victory, you win many.

No child should be allowed to suffer an hour from worms when prompt relief can be got in a simple but strong remedy—Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator.

HOW TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE

Be kind to everyone. Do your level best. Be courteous to all. Hear before judging. Think before speaking. Be generous to an enemy. Stand by your principles. Stop your ears to gossip. Be honest in all your dealings. Do these things and you will live a useful life.

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What Makes a Town? A prosperous rural population which demands a community centre where may be established business, educational, religious and entertainment facilities. Where these flourish and are active it is safe to surmise that the people of that section realize and appreciate the value to them of such a centre.

What Maintains It? The towns are largely maintained by the surrounding districts. But the organization, the direction, and to a great measure the up-keep, of the institutions in such towns are in the hands of the business interests, together with those directly and indirectly connected therewith. Without the active business and professional men to supervise and govern these public institutions and undertakings no town could thrive.

Who is Mainly Affected? Every citizen either in or about a town should be concerned in seeing to it that they do their-part in carrying on any good cause which may be promoted, either by financial or active support. Only in this way will any town prosper and develop as it should.

Publicity is Required. In promotion work your local paper takes the leading part. It is ever the champion of worthy causes and philanthropic and patriotic undertakings. But to function properly, and fully carry out its natural prerogatives, it must in turn have the financial support of the community it serves. When needing advertising or printed matter always first think of The Acton Free Press.

TIME TABLES AT ACTON. CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS. Going East: Daily, except Sunday 10.07 a.m. Daily, except Sunday 6.13 p.m. Sunday only 6.34 p.m. The Chicago flyer, that passes through here at 9.35, eastbound, stops at Georgetown at 9.44 p. m.

TRAVEL BY BUS. Eastbound: Daily, except Sunday 7.00 a.m. Daily 10.05 a.m. Daily 1.00 p.m. Daily 4.15 p.m. Daily 6.40 p.m. Daily 9.00 p.m. Westbound: Daily 9.45 a.m. Daily, except Saturday 12.45 p.m. Daily 2.15 p.m. Daily 5.15 p.m. Daily 7.15 p.m. Daily 10.45 p.m. Special—Saturdays only 3.15 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays Only 12.15 a.m.

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