

### For The Quiet Hour

#### A TOUCH ON THE SHOULDER

He slouched across the village green, aimless, unkempt, and miserable.—because it was Sunday afternoon, and there was "nothing on." John was only 17, but he already had earned his reputation of being the village "black sheep."

The son of a builder in a small way of business, he was supposed to be learning his father's trade, but he shirked far more than he worked. Wild and wayward in disposition, eager for mischief, he was the ringleader of the lawless spirits who carried out practical jokes or daring adventures and his father was in despair as to his future.

Quick steps came behind him on the green; a firm hand was laid on his shoulder, and a ringing voice said: "John, I want you! Come with me to school to-day."

John wheeled round in astonishment and said: "To Sunday school, and in this rig? Not likely! What would the fellows say?"

Yet there came a softer look in the lad's dark eyes, and he stood still while his questioner said, persuasively: "The rig does not matter a bit and I want you. Do come!"

The speaker was a young man of 20 who had lately given himself to God, and was already the minister's right hand, as well as an ardent Sunday school worker. He lived with his widowed mother, keeping a home for her, and neither then, nor in all the after years, had he much of this world's pelf. But he laid up much treasure in heaven. A great conflict went on in John's mind as he contrasted his own appearance with that of his friend, and wondering what would be said by his chums.

The persuasive touch was on his shoulder still, and at last he said: "Well, I'll come, just for once, if you want me!"

Great was the amazement when the young teacher walked into school with his big prize, and at the furtive stares and whispers John felt strongly tempted to make a dash for the door.

Minister and teacher were one in a fellowship of prayer that afternoon on John's behalf and a stirring lesson on Joshua's text, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve," arrested and held the wayward mind.

Next Sunday John met his teacher by appointment, and, with clean collar and well-brushed clothes, took his place again in the class. He could only spell out the little words, for 60 years ago education in the villages was meagre, indeed, and the attendance officer unknown. But something had "stabbed his spirit wide awake."

The dissatisfaction and heart-hunger John had so often felt found expression in the cry: "What must I do to be saved?" And very soon he was rejoicing in a full and free salvation. At once he went home and told his father and then proved the reality of the change by giving up his old loafing ways and going to work heartily in the business. But his eager spirit could not be satisfied with bricks and mortar.

"I want to learn, that I may tell others the story of my Saviour," he said.

So he studied in the early mornings and late at night, joining minister and teacher in a class of three for mutual improvement held at the house. He sought out all the boys of the village who went nowhere on Sundays and persuaded them to come, and soon John's class in the corner became the most popular in the school. At twenty-one, with his father's willing help, he entered college, and after a successful course became an earnest and eloquent preacher of the Gospel, holding important pastorates and being greatly used of God.

Not long before his death he preached special sermons in the little chapel on the green, and told this story to the crowd that thronged the building.

"Humanly speaking," he said, "I owe everything in life to that touch on the shoulder 40 years ago, and the love that brought me to this school and to Christ."

His old teacher, who had toiled on as teacher and superintendent through all the years in the old place, heard the testimony, and with tears of joy thanked God. His had been the humble "Andrew" part of bringing to Jesus one who had afterward far outstripped himself in honor and attainment, but both rejoice together.—The Christian.

CHRISTIANITY, ACCORDING TO "THE WESTERN CHRISTIAN Advocate," faces the greatest crisis in its history in the heathen world to-day, and is meeting with such opposition from intelligent natives on the foreign field as is "almost staggering our leaders." Here is the statement of The Advocate, which, if true—and there is no reason to doubt it—constitutes a challenge to the whole Church of Jesus Christ:

The native faiths are filling the Far East with a description of Western Christianity as a war-loving and war-promoting organization. They are claiming that Christianity, a cannon-ball, a submarine, a gas-bomb and a battleship all go together. They hurl into our teeth the accusation that Christ is the Prince of Peace and the Christian Church the instrument for making that doctrine effective throughout the world, but that the cold fact is that thus far Christ's teaching has not produced that result even in nations where it has held a preponderance of the people under its control. It passes peace resolutions with armies training in the field. It proclaims the coming of the day of world peace with the navies at target practice in its sequestered harbors.

These statements are but part of the many accusations now being made against Christianity which threaten the ultimate success of our missionary program. We have anticipated the hour when pagan religions would come face to face with the claims of Christianity as a world religion. That day has arrived. It brings with it the most critical hour in the history of our Holy Christianity. If there was ever a time when we need to have faith in God and stand steadfast, unmovable, abounding in the works of the Lord, it is now. Let those who know how to pray remain upon their knees. Let those who know the value of intercession seek daily to increase that company by urging others to take the time to become interested and to pour out their souls for the ultimate success of the faith upon which depend our immortal happiness and our eternal destiny.

Who will deny in the light of the above statements, the dire necessity for revival in the Church throughout the whole world, that it may proclaim with united voice the whole counsel of God as the only hope for the world and the one solution for its problems?

WHO AMONG CHRISTIANS DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT "A good conscience is the best looking-glass of heaven," that it is "the soft whisper of God in me," that it is really "a spark of heavenly fire," and yet at times has not set all this knowledge aside, said good-by to conscience and suffered the pangs of remorse?

"Good-by," I said to my conscience,  
"Good-by for aye and aye!"  
And I put her hands off harshly,  
And I turned my face away;  
And conscience, smitten sorely,  
Returned not from that day.

But a time came when my spirit  
Grew weary of its pace,  
And I cried, "Come back, my conscience;  
I long to see thy face!"  
But conscience cried, "I cannot;  
Remorse sits in my place."

—Paul Laurence Dunbar.

"Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ."  
A story is told of a steam-packet that was crossing a stormy bay when the engine suddenly stopped, and for a few minutes the situation was one of real peril. An old lady rushed up to the captain and asked anxiously:

"Is there any danger?"  
"Madam," was the uncompromising reply, "we must trust in God."

"Oh, sir," wailed the inquirer, "has it come to that?"  
Smile if you will, but have you not met people who will trust in everything and everybody but the Lord Jesus Christ?

J. F. COWAN SAYS: "I WOULD MEASURE AND WEIGH animals by a yardstick and platform scale, but if I want to know how much of a man there is in a given suit of clothes I would apply the test of promise-keeping; and sometimes the more trivial the promise, apparently, the grander does the man tower up in his unflinching sense of duty to his pledge of honor."

A PASTOR ONCE SAID: "WHEN I LOOK OVER MY CONGREGATION on a Sunday morning, I ask myself, Where are the poor? But when I see the offertory counted in the vestry I say, Where are the rich?"

**Traverston.**  
(Our own correspondent.)  
September days generally make folk have good appetites.

The harvest is passed, fall wheat fields are already green and promising and some farmers are turning down the stubble fields. How quick the change!

On Saturday evening, in the hamlet, to Mr. and Mrs. Lindsay White was born a wee lassie. Nurse Ada Banks is in attendance. The young couple are receiving many warm congratulations over their first-born.

The Cook family had quite a family reunion the past week. Ernest was over from Detroit, Miss Jennie came up from Toronto, and Ed. dropped in from Palmerston. The former leaves for the City of the Straits this Tuesday, taking his bright boy Murray back with him.

Mr. W. A. Armstrong of Flesherton has quite a gang of men running a portable lumber outfit, cutting up the big piles of logs he took out last winter, which are on Mr. John Ryan's farm across from the school. They have erected quite a cosy camp and stabling for their horses.

Rev. Mr. Connell of Arthur had a fine discourse for Zionites on Sunday. Mr. John McNally brought him out from town.

Wilbert and Archie Greenwood (Mrs. John O.'s boys) are enjoying a well-earned holiday at Toronto Exhibition.

Mrs. T. E. Blair and family and our better half had a pleasant trip to Owen Sound on Saturday afternoon and on Monday took in the sports at Palmerston, but we kept our helpmate at work on Labor Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Firth and Miss Kathleen were visitors at Rose Lawn the Cook homestead, on Sunday, and attended Zion's service, meeting many old friends and neighbors.

Though but a little over two miles away, it was only yesterday that we learned of the good fortune that came to Mr. and Mrs. James Morrison, Jr., about a month ago, when a baby girl came to live with them.

Mrs. J. Marshall of Egremont spent the first of the week with his sister, Mrs. James McNally.

Miss Margaret Flynn of Toronto is holidaying at the home of her uncle, Mr. J. H. Robson.

Miss Jean McArthur of Detroit, is spending a fortnight at the home of her mother, Mrs. John McArthur.

Mrs. J. Whitmore and son John of

Manitoba, also Mrs. Robert Bradley of Watford, enjoyed a very pleasant time at the home of Mrs. T. E. Blair last week.

Mr. Robert Cook and Miss Millie, with Ceylon friends, spent the first of the week at the hospitable home of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Cook.

Miss Essie Firth and Mr. John Hamilton of Durham suburbs were visitors in the neighborhood recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Firth accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Bowlen, of Guelph, motored up and spent a day at the first of the week with Mr. and Mrs. William Firth.

Mrs. Ben Mays and daughters Isabel and Elsie, returned to their home in Guelph on Monday after some pleasant weeks spent at her parental home.

Mr. and Mrs. George Robertson returned on Thursday last to their home at Molesworth after spending some days with the latter's father, Mr. John Greenwood, who is still very ill at time of writing.

Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Walker, Markdale, treated Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Rutledge to a motor drive to Zion on Sunday, where they enjoyed church service and spent the remainder of the evening at the Edwards home.

Mr. Eddie Cook of Palmerston is now enjoying his holidays at the parental home.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter McArthur and daughters Annie and Jennie, of Owen Sound, were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Blair one day recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Webber of Southeast Bentinck were visitors on Sunday at the Davis home.

Miss E. J. Allan, accompanied by her mother, of Chesley, called on S. S. No. 5 recently to view its situation before teaching days commenced.

Mrs. H. Traynor and daughters of Durham were callers in the neighborhood one day last week.

We wonder who the young couple were who overslept and missed the morning train in Markdale recently?

#### South Bentinck

(Our own correspondent.)

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas McNiece from Knox, also Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Marshall of Hampden, were recent visitors at Mr. Wm. Grierson's.

Miss Ethel Derby is visiting with friends in Weston and attending the Toronto Exhibition.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Henderson of

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Hampden, also Mrs. John Park of Detroit were recent visitors with friends in this vicinity.

Miss Margaret McDonald has returned to Toronto after spending the past couple of months at her home here.

Mr. John Grierson went to Buffalo to see his brother, Dr. N. B. Grierson, who underwent an operation last week. We are pleased to report him as doing nicely.

Master Archie Turnbull visited friends in Durham.

Mrs. C. Smith, Miss Nellie Smith and Mrs. A. Derby, of Durham, visited friends here last week.

Miss Atcheson of Chatsworth has been engaged as teacher of Hutton Hill school for the coming term.

Mr. Clifford Ritchie is in Toronto this week attending the Exhibition.

Mr. and Mrs. William Smith accompanied Mr. and Mrs. William Weir to Guelph, where they spent last week-end. Miss Grace Smith returned to her home with them.

Miss Barbara Knisley spent a few days the beginning of the week in Fergus with her brother Alex., whom, we are pleased to say, is improving.

Mr. Herb. Vollett is having a well drilled by Mount Forest drillers.

Miss Agnes Petty returned to Toronto on Monday to resume teaching.

#### Northeast Normanby

(Our own correspondent.)

Mrs. Andrew Marshall is at present visiting around Knox Corners.

Mr. John Snell took charge of the service in Knox last Sunday. Rev.

Mr. Burnett is on a short holiday with friends at Niagara.

Mrs. (Captain) Cornett and son Donald, of Owen Sound, are visiting for a few days with Mrs. John Marshall.

Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Wilton spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Mead.

Mr. Milton McNeer visited with his parents for a few days recently.

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