

AGONY AMONG THE MARSHES VIVIDLY PICTURED BY NOTED FRENCH WRITER

Describes the Place Where Mighty Armies Clashed in Death Struggle as "the Kingdom of Desolation"—Prussian Soldier, Wounded to the Death, Pens Farewell Letter Full of Subtle and Very Beautiful Emotions

By MAURICE BARRES of the French Academy.

The other evening, leaving the trenches of the first line, we went about to press the hands of our soldiers through the shelters flanking the hill, where they came every three days to lie. And then, after I had seen a little tensing of the Prussians, I was led into a little wood, 300 meters distant from their line. One of them was stationed in advance, standing between two apple trees. We looked at him. He gazed back at us. And no one on either side moved.

Twilight was descending. Between that man and us lay the bodies of dead men which could not be gathered up. I shall never forget the sinister spot, and the harmony between living beings and landscape. Is it possible that our rich plains have come to such desolation; that the best, morally and physically, of France, are hidden in these kennels of beasts, and that ideas of hate and of death alone occupy the minds of the millions of individuals who face each other along this immense line of battle? Of what dreams that Prussian before me, as he watches me through the mist of evening? He thinks of annihilating me, and I, in the same way, think of destroying him. These are circumstances in which the most particular spirit loses its identity in all the others, in which no soul is kept apart. That duty is evident, certain. But how deep do its roots strike down into darkness!

Facts and Mysteries.

In vain did my companion—one not better experienced in the affairs of this war—continue to give me interesting details by the thousand. Behind the facts there raises itself a barrier of mystery. And while we went back through the stretch of country to which this campaign has come, I never ceased to ponder upon it.

From time to time we came upon people of our side, cooking in the little hollows of the plain. They were laughing, chatting among themselves. Then we went on again into the silence and into the thickening night. That ending of our visit to the advance posts resembled a return of late hunters in autumn, but mingled with it was an extraordinary disquiet of heart. Never have I known such a vital feeling of brotherhood as on that journey; never a more profound sense of the mystery in which our existence is bathed.

All around us now there reigned unimaginable silence, and one distinguished object 50 paces away with difficulty.

"Be careful!" said my companion to me. "You have the river on your left."

We arrived finally at a point where the plain is cut away abruptly into a deep valley, and leaning over, I saw far below me, at the foot of the cliff on which we stood, little pools still beneath tall poplars. Their waters shone with a sinister light through the rifts of a shroud of fog. Mournful vapors rose and grouped themselves in great moving masses.

"There," I said, "is the kingdom of desolation."

Wounded Man on the Marshes.

During five days we had seen and had listened to a wounded German, whom no one could relieve. He was one of a patrol upon which we fired. His comrades had saved themselves without a thought of carrying him with them. The poor devil lay there with a broken thigh. As you can see, it was not easy to go hunting for him in those ravines and concealed marshes. At last, on the fifth day, we were able to carry him to our ambulance, where he died, thanking us.

You will be interested, I believe, in the emotions which animated that German, wounded and abandoned.

What emotions?

Very subtle and quite beautiful.

One hour afterward, when we had arrived at our quarters, and, before everything else, even before I had rid myself of my uniform and of the mud which stained me to the shoulders, I asked my friendly guide to mark our course for me on a chart, and then to give me the last message of the Prussian of the marshes.

The Letter of Farewell.

Here is the page upon which are mingled, in startling manner, the mists of Germany and of the French valley, which he with his companions came to desolate. I have changed nothing. I have transcribed exactly the final written pages of the little notebook which he carried in his pocket: "If that be the will of the All-Powerful, let this be my last farewell. A French ball struck me while on patrol. It wounded me in the right knee in such a way that I can no longer walk. It is now five days that I have been in this obscure forest. I can no longer endure my hunger, which up to now I have appeased with water. Often I have implored God to send me aid. None has come to this hour. Meanwhile, I rest resigned; I am not impatient, because it is not for long. Then I shall be again in my Fatherland. At home, with my brothers, in that beautiful country, where we may reach

each other new hands anew, beside streams of silver and crystal.

"Farewell, farewell; here on earth or beyond there, in the light.

"Signed, Wilhelm Baumer."

This is what he wrote, in the silence of death, his eyes, bright with fever, turned to the heavens—the Prussian soldier, Wilhelm Baumer. And at the moment, as I transcribe that strange paper, full of delirium and of religious terror, I see again that sky without a moon which, the other evening, stretched solemnly above those marshes. What Germanic thought transported that invader, upon the border of a French river? Do the fairies of the Rhine accompany these barbarians? Did the water-nymph weep beside him, when he was abandoned by his brothers? Did she dry his face with her green tresses? One thing is certain, that he was picked up and cared for by the generosity of the French.

Gods of Germans and French.

What is it that I wish to prove by this short quotation? Nothing precisely in the order of logic. It is an impression which occupies my mind and which I have retained from among a thousand impressions of the field of battle. Perhaps I shall not find, in the haste of my work of the day, the words to express all that it holds of emotion. But it is manifest to me, that, among all the horrors which the Germans have come to create methodically in our country, we continue, on our side as well, the one and the other, to be accompanied by our gods, as a man is followed by his shadow.

The profound instinct which breathed in that rider of the North takes form, finds words. Near to death beneath the poplars of France, his spirit already half-separated from his body, he returned to the vague poetry of the Germans. He drew away from his labor of the field of battle. And we, too, we French, have also a reserve force, which completes and adds perfect our warlike valiance. I mean that generosity which drives us to risk our lives to succor an enemy disarmed and in agony.—Translated for the New York Evening Post, by Malcolm W. Davis.

EATING HASTY LUNCH



Belgian soldiers taking out time for a bite during an engagement in Belgium.

HONOR FOR BRITISH FLYERS

Belfort Garrison is Paraded to Welcome Raiders of the Friedrichshafen Sheds.

London.—The Chronicle's Paris correspondent Naylor telegraphs: "When the two British aviators who made the raid on the German Zeppelin sheds at Friedrichshafen returned to Belfort, they were received with acclamations by the French troops.

"The next day all the troops in the garrison were paraded and in their presence the general in command congratulated the aviators and handed each of them the Cross of the Legion of Honor. A telegram from Zurich says their feat has caused alarm throughout Germany."

GERMANS ADVISED TO SAVE

Commerce Minister Warns People to Be Sparing With Their Grain.

Paris.—The Amsterdam Handelsblad says the Prussian minister of commerce has issued a proclamation which says that although Germany is well provided with grain the people should not waste it.

"The enemy," the minister says, "are trying to starve Germany as if it were a fortress. Therefore be sparing of your bread. Remember that the soldiers would be glad to have on the field of battle the bread you waste"

HATRED FOR ENGLAND BITTER

State of Mind of Germans Toward Enemy is Eloquently Shown in Paper's Announcement.

Berlin.—Eloquent of the German state of mind toward England and everything English since the war began is a solemn announcement contained in the well-known German comic paper Fliegende Blätter. The editors inform their readers that they have received numerous letters protesting

against the word "copyright" which appears on the title page. A patriotic management (they add) feels bound to explain that this does not imply the existence of any sort of relation between Fliegende Blätter and the British government; that it is, in fact, nothing to do with England. The objectionable expression is employed for the sake of the circulation of the paper in America, because only in this fashion is it possible to prevent the pirating of text and pictures. For that reason and for that reason only the

English word "copyright" is permitted to intrude upon the pages of a loyal German periodical.

Life of a Big Gun.

London.—What is the life of the big guns that are playing so great a part in this war? A big naval gun is used up after firing a hundred rounds. After a hundred rounds the rifling of the core or lining of the gun is destroyed by hot gases from the explosive, not as one might suppose, by the friction of the shell.

BEREAVED BY THE WAR



Wife and child of a French reservist who was killed during one of the engagements in the Argonne. Jean Pedelstore, the husband and father, was head waiter in a New York hotel at the outbreak of the war.

LAUDS THE BANTAM SOLDIER

British Medical Journal Says the Little Fellows Are Good for Trench Work.

London.—That little men have many advantages in war time over their bigger brothers is an argument advanced in the British Medical Journal.

After expressing the view that 30,000 have been lost to the army in the last few weeks owing to the present high standard, the journal says:

"Not a little is to be said in favor of short infantry. Short men occupy less room in transport. They find cover more easily and offer a smaller mark to bullets and shrapnel. They are better sheltered in trenches and require to dig less deep trenches to protect themselves.

"It takes less khaki to clothe them and less leather to boot them. The army blanket covers them more amply and they need much less food than tall, thin men to keep up their body heat and maintain their marching energy.

"Those who stand the rigors of cold climates are not always big men and the sailor, like the wind-swept tree on the coast, may be a short man. Warmth and easy conditions of life rather tend to the development of tall men.

"The cavalry and artillerymen require to be big and powerful, but as to those who burrow in the trenches, how can it matter whether they are four feet nine or five feet six? We are not out for a show and a parade, but to win a war of sieges and attrition."

SQUADRONS LOSE EVERY MAN

Russian Paper Praises Heroism of Hungarian Cavalry in Desperate Skirmish.

Petrograd.—The Russkoye Slovo has an account of a skirmish, east of Lutz, between Russian hussars and Hungarian cavalry, in which two Hungarian squadrons were cut down to the last man. The paper, in speaking of the marvelous bravery of the enemy, says: "The Magyars faced certain death, but fought like lions and wielded their sabers as if they were axes. One Hungarian officer, a handsome fellow, struggled on desperately, even when our hussars literally lifted him into the air with their lances. The wounded resisted to their dying breath, emptying their revolvers and striking at the legs of our horses. Four hundred fell to the last man. Such behavior changed our opinion of the Magyars."

WILL HURL MOLTEN STEEL

Hammond, Jr., Invents Projectile That Scatters White Hot Metal and Deadly Gas.

Gloucester, Mass.—A new type of projectile which would scatter a white-hot mixture of molten steel over the object of attack and at the same time permeate the atmosphere with a deadly gas which would make it impossible for fire fighters to approach, has been invented by John Hays Hammond, Jr., according to a statement made by the inventor.

The new missile may soon appear in the European war, as some of the belligerent nations are now negotiating for its purchase, he said. The United States government at present is conducting experiments with the new projectile at Sandy Hook, he added.

The missile is designed for use in siege guns as an aid in destroying towns and dirigible balloons.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Courses.)

LESSON FOR JANUARY 17

THE CALL OF GIDEON.

LESSON TEXT—Judges 6:11-13, 23-40. Read entire chapter.

GOLDEN TEXT—Blessed is the man whom thou choosest.—Ps. 134.

We have before us now the fourth apostasy and servitude of Israel, one which seems to have affected chiefly the four northernmost tribes (v. 35). In preparation for the call and work of Gideon, the sixth judge, "the children of Israel cried unto heaven," and God sent unto them a prophet who encouraged their flagging faith in Jehovah and turned them back to him (6:1-10). The now impoverished and overriden Israelites, who had enjoyed prosperity after their former deliverance, had again done evil and must first judge their sin and obey the voice of Jehovah before they could receive a message of hope and deliverance through one of Jehovah's prophets.

God's Call to Gideon.

I. Gideon in Prayer, vv. 11-13. That the "angel of Jehovah" was a manifestation of Jehovah is clear from a careful reading of verse 13. There the first use of the word "lord" is not capitalized, whereas in the second instance it is capitalized. This angel was a foreshadowing of the incarnation in Jesus of Nazareth. He is clearly identified with Jehovah (see Judges 2:1, 2; Gen. 16:10, 13, R. V.). It was thus that Abraham saw "my day" (John 8:56). "The angel of the Lord" at no time appears after Jesus came, as the revised text shows. The nomadic Midianites brought ruin to Israel as the bitter fruit of its sin. Then, was uttered the cry for relief (Ps. 130). The father of Gideon is passed by, for he was a worshiper of Baal (v. 25). They who bear the vessels of the Lord, those through whom he works, must have clean hands. God's call to Gideon came to him (1) while he was alone, as he was threshing wheat in the hiding place of a winepress, for he dare not tread in the customary open place of a threshing floor. This call came to him (2) as he was faithfully performing his duty, that one nearest his hand (v. 11, Ex. 3:1, 2; Luke 2:8, 9). It was a strange word, "thou mighty man of valour," one of fact and prophecy as well. It was a brave thing, thus to be faithful and to receive this call (3) in a time of great distress and danger. The sequel, which forms next Sunday's lesson, is the fulfillment of the prophecy.

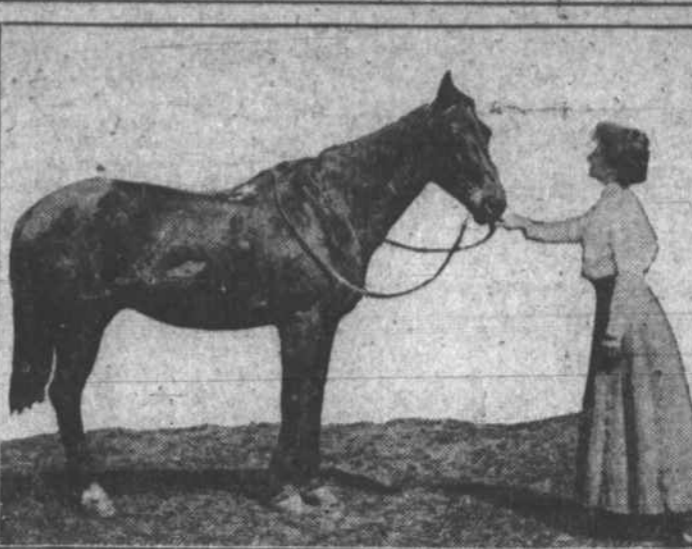
II. Gideon in Doubt, vv. 13-16. Gideon's thought must have been one of amazement as well as of doubt. His question, "Why then is all this befallen us?" was a most natural one and one that men even now are asking when they are in great trouble. Suffering and misery are not all to be laid at God's door, though he permit it, but chiefly at the door of sin (Ps. 77:7-9; Isa. 49:1, 2). It is possible that Gideon had not yet recognized his heavenly visitor (cf. v. 21). The name Gideon means "Hewer" or "Trefeller," and indicates, as all eastern names do, something of his personal character or appearance. Hence the significance of v. 14. The Lord in the person of the angel looked upon him and said, seeing all of his natural qualifications, but with the emphasis upon the "I"—"Go in thy might . . . have not I sent thee?"

Gideon Was the Agent.

III. Gideon Assured, vv. 33-35. Gideon's first act on being assured of this heavenly communication was one of worship (vv. 17-26). His second one was to take ten picked men and overthrow the altar to Baal, thereby demonstrating the impotence of Baal and the futility of calling upon him for deliverance. The tribesmen at once light upon him as having performed this act and demand his death from Josiah, his father, who seems to have been a sort of caretaker of the idol (v. 25). These same men later become Gideon's enthusiastic followers (vv. 34, 35). Gideon thus translated theory into action and gained confidence. It was one man against the community, and to further rebuke them he erected an altar to Jehovah (v. 28). No bias from Baal struck him or any mark of displeasure, hence the suggestiveness of the words of Josiah (v. 31). But now there is another raid (v. 33), and God is about to strike a blow on behalf of Israel. Whenever men get right with God Satan plans a special assault, 2 Tim. 3:12. A literal rendering of verse 34 is, "the Spirit of the Lord clothed himself with Gideon." Gideon was merely the agent, the instrument through whom and by whom Jehovah is about to do a mighty work. The only satisfactory and sufficient equipment we can have for effective service is the endowment of the Holy Spirit, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4, 5, 8. Notice this endowment came upon Gideon charge of Gideon after he had by obedient service shown his trustworthiness. Men recognized in his trumpet call a note of the authority God had intrusted him with and of which his previous acts were a demonstration.

IV. Gideon's Caution, vv. 36-40. Spurgeon said that he never uttered his pulpits to preach without trembling, and Gideon would have been more than human, even after assembling his army, had he been absolutely free from doubts. We should never place an "if" before any of God's promises, and Jesus reprimanded those of his day when they demanded a "sign" (wonder), but Gideon proved his heroism in part by his caution. Gideon was afraid of himself but was sure of God. Once assured of God's leading he was willing to lead 300 men against the overwhelming force of his enemies. If such a demand was a weakness God dealt with it with marvelous patience and tenderness, just as he condescends to treat our weaknesses. The very life of the nation is at stake, everything depends upon Gideon's success or failure.

BLEMISHES SPOIL HORSES FOR PLEASURE



A Good Family Horse.

There are many blemishes on horses that do not impair their usefulness, but practically render them unfit for the pleasure vehicle.

A horse with sprung knees can do honest labor on the farm and he will do many sorts of work in the city, but he can never add to the appearance of the pleasure equipage.

There are blemishes too numerous to mention that practically unfit a horse for the purposes above mentioned.

Cocked pasterns, capped hocks, scraggy manes and tails, sprung

knees, spavins, bog or bone, loss of one eye, scarred knees (a sure sign of the stumbler), splints, ringbones, sweency or atrophy of the shoulder muscles, the natural carriage of a low head and interfering.

These are some of the apparently insignificant blemishes that too many horses suffer from and any one of them will render him unfit for the pleasure vehicle.

Do not listen to dealers, or even to your best friend and buy a horse that has blemishes on him if you want him for pleasure purposes.

SILOS ON SOUTHERN FARMS

Huge Receptacle Furnishes Variety and Makes It Possible to Get More Feed Off an Acre.

The silo is coming to be more and more common in this section of the country. It is really a very simple proposition. It is not expensive when one takes into consideration the value of the feed that is saved, feed that would otherwise go to waste and it is especially profitable where dairy cows are kept.

The principle of silage is simple, says Gulf States Farmer. It is a means of taking the plant at a time when it contains the fullest measure of nutritive value, when it is at its height of development of plant life and storing it up for use when there is a scarcity of feed of this kind. In other sections of the country where long winters make it necessary to



Silo on a Southern Dairy Farm.

furnish all of the feed for the cattle during several months of the year the silo is a necessity, but down here where we have ten months in the year it is equally important for it furnishes a variety, it makes it possible to get more feed off an acre; that is, it makes it possible to keep more cows per acre and there is no question but the condition of the crop is much better where silage is fed.

There are numerous kinds of silos. You may have those that are homemade, you may have the stave silo, the cement block silo, or the concrete construction. Anything is good. The principle is simply to store up the feed in such a way that it will keep indefinitely and that it may be used when pastures are dry or when the variety of feed is limited. Surely there should be a silo on every southern farm where dairy cows are kept and it is equally important for other kinds of farm stock.

Fresh Blood.

Fresh blood in your flocks is necessary if you expect to raise strong chicks next year. Inbreeding will soon ruin a flock.

Expensive Seed.

Alfalfa seed is expensive, and the heavier yields of hay are not usually secured until the second or third year or later.

Cheapest Stock Food.

We may look at the silage question from any angle and we are forced to accept it as the cheapest food known for stock.

Carelessness in Painting.

Carelessness in painting the farm buildings loses many of us a great deal in appearance and dollar-and-cent value.

Wheat Consumption.

Domestic wheat consumption last year averaged 44 million bushels monthly, according to department estimates.

Soy Beans for Hogs.

Soy beans stand high as a food for hogs, but don't let them eat too heartily of them, especially at first.

Paying Investment.

The general farmer with a 500 chick-power sideline, has a powerful argument against grocery bills.

WORK FOR BETTER DAIRYING

Those Who Appreciate Importance of Organization Should Lead Time and Efforts to That End.

(By ROY C. POTTS, Oklahoma Agricultural College.)

When we can fully appreciate the benefits to be attained by organization in the dairy business, it will be an easy matter to organize cow testing associations, community breeders' associations, cream marketing associations and farmers' co-operative creameries.

We who appreciate the importance of organization should give of our time and lend our efforts to encourage the dairy farmers of our communities to organize. Education is a slow process. It takes generations to transform a race and it requires many years to change the habits of a generation. The keeping of a poor, unprofitable cow is a habit with many dairymen; so is the use of a scrub herd. When our dairy farmers realize that the road is easy to obtain better dairy stock and that their profits will be increased when they co-operate with their neighbors in organizing the dairy interests of their community you will find they will be quick to seize the opportunity.

It is education that is needed, and organization is a sure sign of a progressive, thinking people.

CARE NECESSARY IN PRUNING

Never Do More Work Than Necessary to Protect Trees From Injury and to Increase Productiveness.

It is a safe rule never to do more pruning than you are obliged to do to protect trees from injury, to render them productive, or to shape them to your ends. Still, where severe pruning becomes necessary, it is well to know what trees will bear it.

Of fruit, the apple, pear, plum and peach stand pruning well when young and vigorous.

Wounds on cherry trees do not heal so readily as on most fruit trees. The elm, oak, chestnut, locust and ash withstand pruning quite as well as any of our forest trees. While willows heal wounds very readily, their wood decays very quickly and needs double protection.

The exposed wood of the birches and poplars rots quickly.

Trees which, on account of bleeding, must be pruned in summer, like the maples, birches and hornbeams, must be treated with care; still the hornbeams stand pruning well.

Trees grown for timber should be planted near together, so that the lower branches may be killed by shade when very small.

As cedars are usually grown for posts, they are seldom pruned.

DAIRY NOTES

Kindness counts.

Make beef of every grade bull.

More cows will be fed on silage this winter than ever before.

This is the time to pick up good heifer calves to re-enforce the dairy.

The most economical method of growing calves depends largely upon conditions on individual farms.

Unclean flanks and udders are the most common sources of contamination in milk.

No matter how good the cow, the chances are ten to one that the calf from the grade sire will nowhere near equal the cow.

The manure spreader makes for better returns for the dairy herd because it makes the manure more valuable to the land.

Silage is the very best winter pasture for the dairy herd. It produces more readily than anything else summer conditions in the winter stable.

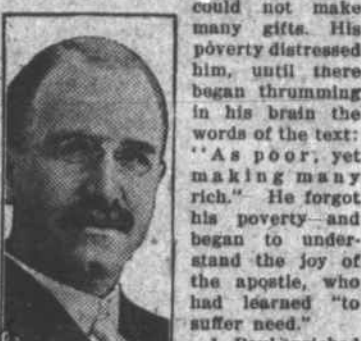
Rusty milk pails and cans are a source of danger and uncleanliness. It is poor economy to see them in the dairy. Discard the battered ones also.

Poor Yet Making Rich

By REV. L. W. GOSNELL, Assistant to the Deane Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

TEXT—As poor, yet making many rich.—II Cor. 8:10.

On Christmasday a certain Christian worker was troubled because he could not make many gifts. His poverty distressed him, until here began thrumming in his brain the words of the text: "As poor, yet making many rich." He forgot his poverty—and began to understand the joy of the apostle, who had learned "to suffer need."



I. Paul enriched the world by his life. All his preaching was enforced by his testimony, "I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me." Spurgeon comments on the wonderful power of George Muller's preaching: It was quite simple, but the hearer felt that here was a man dealing with realities of which he knew. The bishop of Durham tells of a university preacher at Cambridge who generally spoke to empty benches, yet when the students were sick or dying they would send for this man; his life was fragrant.

What an opportunity in our homes! Hundreds of the notable scientists, statesmen, physicians, business men others have arisen from humble homes whose godly atmosphere they have carried into all their activities. Many a plain father or mother will wear a crown of rejoicing in the day of Christ for the extended influence of their saintly living before their children.

2. His prayers were another source of Paul's riches for the world. We may say without straining language that he prayed "without ceasing," and we may follow him here. Says John R. Mott: "It is possible for the most obscure person in a church with a heart right toward God, to exercise as much power for the evangelization of the world as it is for those who stand in the most prominent positions. Therefore no one is excusable if he commits the great sin of omitting to pray." We can make missionaries and native churches rich, wise, and our own church and community, too, no matter how poor we may be. Dr. G. Campbell Morgan tells of a preacher who would go from pew to pew in his church on week-days and pray for those who sat there on Sunday; Dr. Morgan ventures the opinion that this is perhaps the highest service that even a great preacher could do for his flock.

3. His writings are one of Paul's gifts to the world. What a heritage are his epistles! We know how "Pilgrim's Progress" was written by a tinker in jail. If we object that this tinker had unusual genius, it may be replied that many ordinary persons, with love for Christ in their souls, have done valiant service with the pen. It was a letter from a friend, written with a faltering heart, that led Henry Clay Trumbull to Christ; the world knows of his splendid service as preacher, explorer, expositor, Sunday school worker and editor. We heard of a woman who watched the daily record of deaths in the papers and sent to every bereaved household a letter or booklet containing a word for the Master: Who could not covet her reward and who could not do likewise?

4. His preaching was another of Paul's blessings for men. He could say to multitudes of converts, as he said to the Thessalonians, "What is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?" Lord Jesus, it has been said, are often like gamblers which are laden with spices and jewels, but they themselves feed on thistles. But though poor, how have they made many rich! We knew of one who had not realized all the ambitions of his early ministry; his churches had been obscure and his salary small, and it grieved him that his wife had dressed shabbily. Yet here, he had led a poor country lad to Christ; there, he had helped a boy get off to college; there, he had loaned his books to a hungry soul. And at his funeral his body was borne of bishops and lawyers and magnates who came to shed sincere tears over the man who had done them the greatest service ever performed for them—who had led them to Christ. Fellow-laborers with God will come with rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them.

Spiritual treasure has been so showered upon us that we enrich men when we are unawares. We listened recently to the story of a young man who, after serving Satan well, had come to Christ. He was a sailor, on an English ship, which was lying in a harbor off the coast of Cornwall. One quiet afternoon, as he was washing dishes there was borne to him from the shore the sound of Christian song. A casket was being carried through the village streets and the simple Cornish folk who followed were singing that noble hymn:

O God, our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal home.

Little did they think of their audience in the kitchen of the ship's yard, but the song followed this wayward sailor lad over the high seas until he had found the true "Shelter from the stormy blast."

A soul in which Christ lives scatters light and blessing everywhere—"as poor, yet making many rich."