

BEGINS MEETING IN TOBACCO TOWN

Rev. Burke Culpepper Thrills Congregation With Elo- quent Sermon

By JAMES A. ROBINSON
Durham, March 16.—Rev. Burke Culpepper is a live wire evangelist in electrical action when he is preaching. His sentences flash like lightning. The words fly from his mouth like sparks from an electric welding machine. Amid the thunder of his blows, and the rain-storm of invective against sin, the clouds rift, and there is seen the sunshine of God's mercies, and the flowers of love are made more beautiful under the golden smiles of the glories of a religion that lifts the most debased to the beauties of heaven. He pictures life and acts in words that burn and glow with emotion. He leads his congregations into the valley of tears, and dries their eyes upon the mountain top of rejoicings in things more valuable than life. He wings his words to every heart, and stamps them with a Culpepper brand of earnestness and truth, in his own way, and his own manner.

The evangelistic meeting at Trinity church, conducted by Rev. Burke Culpepper, with John L. Robinson, leader of the singing, began Sunday morning at 11 o'clock with a church building packed to its capacity, and then some had to stand.

The text of the first sermon was: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Mr. Culpepper said in part: You are going to sample me today. Some are not going to be pleased with what I say. Some are going to criticize. Some are not going to like me. Some are not going to come back. But I care not what you think about it. I never expect to do the preaching of your pastor, Dr. Wilcox. If I did I would not be here. I am called as an evangelist. I have been appointed by my church, and make my reports to my church.

I am not an ex-baseball player, or prize fighter, or followed the paths of sin before climbing into the ministry. Thank God, I was saved when quite young, and have been in the evangelistic work for twenty years. I am your hammer, your saw, to help you build a christian character. Religion is not bought, it is caught. You must catch on and hold fast. I want a man to be a man—a real man. Paul was a real man. I hate to preach to little fellows, these little peewees that know it all. Paul was a man—he just surrendered, when he saw he was in the wrong.

Here the preacher gave a graphic description of a red-headed fellow, on a ranch, who won \$500 for riding an outlaw horse, and losing a wild steer, and how he did it. There are men all over the country today riding the outlawed horses of liquor, gambling, selfishness and stinginess, who let these horses throw them. They haven't made up their minds to conquer the steeds. If you live so that you can shake hands with yourself at night, and have done nothing you are ashamed to tell your wife, you are going home.

Surrender yourself. Paul had to fight to get in the room with the christians, after he had surrendered. He was looked upon with suspicion. I do not think Paul ever forgave himself for his past. Some men never forgive themselves for some things they do. Mr. Culpepper related a most thrilling story of Gov. Patterson, of Tennessee, who drank and went a downward course, until he found himself in prison. The Carmack tragedy weighed upon his mind. He had been deserted by every friend he had. There stood beside him in the prison cell one, who said to him: "You have broken my heart; you have stained our family name; you are my husband; I love you." Gov. Patterson saw a light. He said if he could find one man who would be his friend, he would make the start. He went to a minister, and the minister went with him to see Culpepper. Mr. Culpepper then said: "I asked him to pray. You cannot get any man to make monkey shins on his knees. I heard that man pray. He was converted. He went to the grave of Senator Carmack, and there poured out his heart. He said he had embraced the very things that Senator Carmack had given his life for. Gov. Patterson is now doing a great work. He is a christian. A saved man."

Hear me, young men! You have got to fight a record, if you are living in sin. You've got some besetting sin. I am sanctified—sanctified in spots; and some spots are not sanctified. But we must fight the good fight. We must keep the faith. Here he portrayed a severe storm that tore up young trees, and shattered windows. In the yard before his home was a sturdy old oak tree that reeled, and bent to the ground under the storm's fury, and I said its got you at last; but the oak came up smiling and shook itself, and said not this time. In the storms of life be like that giant oak—sink the roots of your faith and courage deeper into the soul, so that you may not be swept away. One thing the storms of hell cannot shake the foundation of the church.

Some men fight for a while and then get tired. I'm glad so many men like Paul and those gone before, have finished so well. Fallen men; and fallen women! What a tragedy! You didn't keep the faith. Didn't hold out. You did not finish.

Here the evangelist, in a most graphic way, told the story of a Kentucky horse that was carried to New York to run a race with an English horse. Everything from Kentucky, from the stable, the saddle, the currycomb, hay and to the water the horse drank was sent along with the animal. It made her feel at home. The other horse, all excitement, in a new place, with new surroundings lost the race. Men, you call yourselves doctors, in your business, but there was never such a race as is now being run between the church and sin. What a tragedy! A beautiful poem was recited on what he had heard at his mother's knee. It visibly affected the large congregation. The raptness of the sermon, which was heard with intense interest, was the story of an impossible postmaster in New England. The story was told from his desk, in his own words, and he had his feet on the floor.

she gave this parting message to her daughter: "Tell daddy I died with his picture and Christ's picture, side by side, on my breast." It was a beautiful death. The room was full of the glory of God, and angels. The husband was converted. When the last words of the story had left the lips of the preacher, a good portion of the congregation was in tears.

MURPHEY SCHOOL FUND IS GROWING

Total of \$335 of Necessary \$700 Is Secured In Canvass

Nearly half of the funds needed to equip the Murphey School playgrounds has been raised and Mr. E. G. Allen, of the Superba Theater, has agreed to contribute half of the gross receipts of the theater Monday, April 8, when "Huckleberry Finn" will be shown.

The funds have now reached \$335 and are still growing. Contributions may be made to Miss Emma Cona, principal of the school, or Mrs. R. N. Simms, chairman of the committee from the Parent Teachers Association.

The contest for subscriptions between the various grades of Murphey School was won by Miss Lewis' fourth grade B bringing in \$57.83 on their cards; next victorious was Mrs. Thomas' fourth grade B, with \$18.30, the total raised by the cards being about \$140. The victorious team of older children was composed of Elizabeth Barber and Martha Tilley, who so successfully presented their cause to the gentlemen assigned to them that they brought in \$26.22.

VIRGINIA LEAGUE WILL OPEN SEASON APRIL 22

Petersburg, Va., March 16.—Despite the tangled state of the two drafts of the schedule, it took the Virginia League managers, in session here this afternoon and tonight, only a short while to agree on one. The season will open April 22 with Petersburg playing at Richmond, Norfolk at Portsmouth, Suffolk at Newport News and Wilson at Rocky Mount.

The first half of the season will close July 3, and the second half will begin July 5. The campaign will be brought to a close September 11, after which the post-season series to decide the championship of the organization will be held. To prevent a repetition of the argument at Richmond and Petersburg last season, which prevented a post-season series, rules covering the games were passed.

NEGRO DRIVERS ARE STILL HELD FOR MANSLAUGHTER

C. Gray and William Ballentine, negro truck drivers, whose machine ran down and killed little Rachel Mann, three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Mann, 610 South Salisbury street, last

Monday afternoon, are still held in the city jail with charges of manslaughter against them.

Bond for the two has been fixed at \$1,000, which neither has been able to give.

TWIN CITY WOMAN VISITS SENATORS

(Continued From Page One.)

that Major Hedman rated high at the White House.

"I am very sorry that I do not, Madam," he answered, in a tone that denoted regret, but Mr. Tumulty and I are not very good friends and I am afraid my request would jeopardize your chances."

Not to be outdone, she went next to Senator Overman's office and tackled his secretary, Hubert Martin. She desired to take her matter up directly with the Senator. Mr. Martin informed her that she would first have to be passed by him before she saw the Senator.

She was adamant for a while but Martin affected a keen interest in her story and a desire to see that she got in touch with Mr. Wilson.

"Just what is it you want to see the President about?" asked Martin.

"I want to take up with him a matter that is more important than crushing the whole German army," answered Mrs. Wooten. "It is more important than anything Congress has considered in years. He must allow my claim."

"But the President refused a few days ago to see Senator Simmons when Senator Hitchcock asked him to see him," countered Martin, hopeful he would impress her with the magnitude of the job she had undertaken.

"He did exactly right not to see Senator Simmons," said she. "He had already to express his ideas about the peace treaty and they are right. I don't care if he didn't see any Senator. But I know that once I get to the White House he will see me."

"The President is not well enough to receive visitors," pursued Martin.

"Yes, he is," she came back defiantly. "He saw representatives of the railroad unions a few days ago and the papers said he had a hell of a punch in that right hand of his."

"But it is a wonder to me that he is alive," she continued. "The way they have called in specialists and experts has been enough to kill any man. I know what is the matter with the President and when I see him I expect to tell him enough to make him well. If I talk to him a while, he will be ready to run for a third term."

Then it dawned on Martin what her idea was. By "allowing my claim" she meant taking her treatment.

Martin carried her to the floor of the Senate and presented her to Senator Overman. He asked the pardon of Mrs. Wooten while he mentioned "another little matter" to the Senator.

So far as could be learned here to-

night, no engagement has been made at the White House for Mrs. Wooten. She left Capitol Hill this afternoon with the promise that she would return for her letters to President Wilson tomorrow.

Mrs. Wooten said she was a native of Virginia. Her husband, she said, died several years ago. No one learned what prescription she had for the President.

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