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## What of the Church of the Open Country.

Why should those places, throughout the open country, where Christians meet to worship God be to all appearances the spots most forsaken by him? All who have the slightest knowledge of country churches know that out through the rural districts there are scores of church buildings unpainted, out of repair and in a dilapidated condition generally, while to make desolation more desolate now and then a church will be found located in the midst of a burying ground that is protected from the public only by a fence broken and falling into decay and in which the vegetation has been left to grow in a tangled mass. Often within the confines of the burying ground straying cattle or a few wandering sheep may be seen feeding upon the succulent grasses that are nourished by the bones of a former generation.

This evident neglect of the church premises seems to be indicative of the community attitude toward religious worship. The same interest shown in the care of church buildings is manifested in the support of its services. They are neglected. It appears that the church services are no more attractive to the residents of the community than the building itself is to the passing stranger.

Within the recent past thousands of country churches have died. Today thousands of others are in a dying condition. It is claimed that in the state of Illinois alone there are 500 abandoned country church buildings. The farmers are using them for all sorts of purposes; hay-barns, tool-sheds, corn-cribs, shops, in fact, for anything that suits their convenience. In the states of Nebraska, Iowa, and Minnesota, in twenty-five years, 281 Baptist churches have been dropped from the list and eighty-two more are on the point of being abandoned. Country churches that were once flourishing and strong, exerting a marked influence on the life of the community, today seem to have lost ground to such an extent that no longer do they dominate the life of the locality and flourish in their activities that exist on sufferance merely.

This loss in rural church membership cannot be charged to the decrease in rural population, for in some sections we are facing the fact of a decreased rural membership where there is an increased rural population. Such is true of the state of Minnesota within the ranks of our own denomination. The last census showed the gain in rural population in Minnesota to be 7.7 per cent.

The Baptist rural church membership for the decade 1903 to 1913 has decreased 7.9 per cent. In 1903 the Minnesota Baptists reported ninety-five churches in open country. Eight of these were even then practically abandoned and so are not to be considered. Of the remaining eighty-seven, in the last ten years, six have been disbanded. During the same period six new churches have been organized in the open country. Thus it would appear that the Minnesota Baptists have held their own in the number of country churches. But this appearance is charged by the fact that there are closed at the present time four churches. Two of these may possibly be revived, the possibility, however, is remote.

The actual facts are the Baptists of Minnesota have lost during the last decade in the number of rural churches and also in rural membership. True, the loss has not been great but sufficient to show that the current is setting in the wrong direction. The explanation so frequently given of the decline of these churches, namely, that the membership has either died or moved away, is not a satisfactory one because the rural population in Minnesota is greater than it was ten years ago. We can only admit that the country church is not making a commanding appeal to the people.

Conditions in the country have materially changed. From the lonely log cabin in a remote clearing of the woods, or from the crude sod shanty on the bare

prairie to the modern home fitted with all present-day conveniences and comforts and surrounded by fruitful orchards, fields of tasseled corn or waving grain is a long way reckoned in units of either time or labor.

In the early days the farmer rarely went beyond his own neighborhood. If he traveled from home it must be on foot, horseback or by a lumberwagon. He was satisfied with his community life. If a man was sick his neighbors came and cared for him, first one then another sitting up with him nights. If he died they prepared the body for burial even making the coffin for the dead. It was a customary thing for the farmer's wife to take sewing or knitting and visit a whole day at a neighbor's. In the winter the farmer would take the whole family to a neighbor's where, after supper, the children would play blind-man's-buff and other old-time games in the kitchen while the old folks sat in the parlor before an open hardwood fire and visited until bed-time. Now the visiting is quickly done over the telephone. A doctor comes from town with a trained nurse and the sick are cared for by them. Modern machinery does the farm work that was once made the occasion of festal gatherings. In the evening a fancy driving horse and a rubber-tired buggy or motor-car takes the country folk into town to the "movies." Yet through all this prosperity and progress the church of the open country has remained practically unchanged in its services and methods. Preaching, Sunday-school and prayer service with an occasional pay social between have been about all that is attempted. Many of these churches do not even have regular preaching and Sunday school and yet have hoped to live.

It rests upon the country church to adjust itself to the changed conditions of life and undertake a ministry that will arouse and hold the interest of the community because it has community value and is not an effort put forth merely to maintain its own existence.

Yearly the wealth and culture of the open country are increasing. The evidences of this are seen on every hand. A drive of a few hours from this city will take one out through a rich farming country, past several churches in the open country and luxurious farm homes. Some of these homes have furnace heat, electric lights from a private plant on the farm, well appointed bath-rooms, furniture purchased and arranged with discriminating taste, the latest literature in books and magazines on the library table, telephone connection with Chicago, the mail left daily at their gate, while the children in the home are state normal school and university graduates. They have affluence and refinement.

Minnesota is not a tenant farm state as are some states. There is still too much unoccupied land to permit of finding tenants. The proportion of owned farms is high and that of tenant farms low. The farms consequently show the marks of increasing prosperity as the owners improve their homes year by year.

Such conditions as those just stated present great possibilities for the country church. The fact is recognized on the part of those who are making a careful investigation of the so-called rural problem that the country church holds the key to the problem of country life. President Butterfield speaks as follows: "The rural pastor when he arrives on his field should become the community leader of the parish. This does not mean that he shall fritter away his time getting up all kinds of schemes for neighborhood activity, but he must so give his thought to large plans for community betterment that the people will see that he is interested in the community life. It follows that the pastor must have the social point of view for the pastor is the chief term in the problem. He is to have a vision of the new rural life prosperous industrially, beautified by art, redeemed truly. The time has come when men going into country parishes must prepare

themselves for country parish work."

In the social activities of the community there is no agency for the building up of a wholesome social life more deserving of first place than the rural church. Some organization is going to supply the rural community with an agreeable social life. If the church does not some other organization will. The need is too great to be left unsatisfied and will create the means for its satisfaction. This does not mean that it is necessary for the rural church to undertake an elaborate program of socials, concerts, gymnastic classes and like activities, though these are good in their places. There are two general requirements that must be met first, to find a common interest, or if none exists to create one, and second, to bring the people together on that common interest and the social life will then care for itself.

The life and labor of John Frederick Oberlin demonstrated how the disinterested individual may be interested and how the individuals thus aroused may be enlisted in community undertakings.

If the kingdom of God is a kingdom of service all efforts on the part of the church to serve the community in any way that will promote wholesomeness of life are not inconsistent with its mission. The church which renders such service has gone a long way toward solving the problem of a wholesome and agreeable social life in the country and has placed itself in a commanding position. Its message will be heard with new interest; its influence felt with increased power. And under these new conditions, when it proclaims the sweet truth of the old evangel for the spiritual life of men there will be found a more receptive attitude and a more ready response to the appeal thus made. —By L. B. Crosby, in Standard.

## Extradition of Thaw Ordered by Governor.

Concord, N. H., Nov. 8.—Governor Felger today honored the requisition of the State of New York for the extradition of Harry K. Thaw. The case is now transferred automatically to the Federal Courts where a writ of habeas corpus on behalf of Thaw is pending.

The Governor based his decision on the indictment returned against Thaw in New York county, which charged him with conspiracy to escape from the asylum at Matteawan, N. Y.

Thaw's attorneys announced that they would immediately file an amendment to their petition for a writ of habeas corpus. The original petition was based on the allegation that Thaw was indicted for conspiracy by the Dutchess County grand jury and it was suspended pending the Governor's decision upon the matter of extradition.

Because the extradition has now been granted on the strength of the New York County indictment it will be necessary to amend the petition accordingly.

Thaw will remain here in the custody of United States Marshal Nute and Sheriff Drew pending the Federal proceedings.

## Why the Horse Stopped.

A traveler in Indiana noticed that a farmer was having trouble with his horse. It would start, go slow for a short distance, and then stop again. Thereupon the farmer would have great difficulty in getting it started, says Godly's Magazine. Finally the traveler approached and asked solicitously:

"Is your horse sick?"  
"Not that I know of."  
"Is he balky?"  
"No, but he's so afraid I'll say whoa and he won't hear me that he stops every once in a while to listen."

## Valuable Land for Sale.

I have about 25 acres of land in suburbs of Mt. Airy on Fancy Gap road. This land lays well. Has had twelve thousand loads of manure on it in five years. Been used for trucking, is in high state of cultivation.

O. V. Belton.  
For further particulars, see Robert Belton.

## ASKED TO RESIGN BUT WONT.

District Attorneys and Marshals in North Carolina Asked to Resign.

Asheville Dispatch, 6, to Greensboro News.

In a formal letter Attorney General McReynolds has requested the resignation of District Attorney Holton and Marshal Logan of the western district, and District Attorney Seawell and Marshal Dockery of the eastern district. This is in line with the demands made upon the Attorney General by the North Carolina Senators.

The letter of the Attorney General has of course been treated as official business and therefore confidential, but those who have been permitted to see the official note are amazed at its tenor. In fact, it is declared by friends that the Republican officials could not well resign under the verbiage of the McReynolds letter without appearing to impeach the character of their own services to the government. The letter is said to set forth that the department wishes to effect certain changes to alter "conditions" in the districts and to that end desires the resignation of those now holding offices.

None of the officials concerned will resign. On the contrary they will carry the fight to the White House should that drastic step become necessary and the President may be asked to tell the country what he meant when he declared that Republicans should not be removed for purely political reasons.

The Attorney General does not intimate what changes he desires made in the service, nor does he charge that any part of the service has been unsatisfactory. Nevertheless the department asks that the resignations be so worded as to indicate that the present officeholders are effacing themselves to the end that the suppositious changes can be made. As before stated, none of those concerned have the slightest idea of resigning, unless their mountain friends are greatly in error.

## Can Arm and Equip Half Million Men on Short Notice.

Washington Dispatch.

The "war plans" of the army ordinance department are completed and for the first time in the history of the country Uncle Sam is in readiness, at a moment's notice, to arm and equip 500,000 men to send into the field in the event of war with a first-class power.

These plans have been worked out during the past six years through the systematic and unremitting labor of Lieut. Col. J. T. Thompson of the ordinance department, under the direction of Brigadier General William Crozier, chief of the bureau.

Colonel Thompson pointed out that his "war plan" is based upon conditions as they would actually exist in the event of hostilities. The line of the regular army would be increased to its maximum enlisted strength as provided for by law; the entire organized militia of the country would be mustered into the service of the United States at full war strength and the remainder would be raised by the enlistment of volunteers. The "war plan," as now completed, provides that this force shall be armed and equipped at concentration camps before the different units are sent to the scenes of operation.

For co-ordination, tables and maps have been prepared, giving for the mobile army, for the organized militia and for each arm of service their present strength and the number of troops required to bring each arm to war strength. The number and kind of volunteers to be raised to complete a half million of troops are also set forth.

## Straight and Narrow.

You seek to walk the straight and narrow way, said the earnest friend.  
"Of course," replied Miss Cayenne; "you have to walk that way in these tube skirts."

## NO INDICATION HUERTA INTENDS TO ABDICATE.

On Contrary He Expects to Organize New Congress and Will Defy Washington to the Point of Actual War.

Mexico City, Nov. 8.—General Huerta has shown no indication that he will comply with the American demands for his resignation. On the contrary, those who profess to have his confidence say his program includes the continued occupancy of the Presidency until some time late in the year 1914, and that he intends to carry out his plan of organizing the new congress and defying Washington even to the point of war.

It is not forgotten, however, that the unexpected in Mexican politics is not surprising and the evidences of this fact every hour brings a new rumor regarding Huerta. One persistent report was that he had turned the government over to the foreign minister Senor Hohena, and had gone to Vera Cruz.

Another was that he had committed suicide. That Huerta has begun to break with certain members of his latest cabinet is indicated by the reported resignation of Gen. Blanquet, the minister of war.

There is some basis for believing the United States has served on President Huerta a supplementary notice that his official career must be brought to an end by Monday night. It was reported today that John Lind, President Wilson's representative, was the medium employed by Washington. Mr. Lind and the Mexican officials deny this, but the rumor originated in the National Palace.

Those who insist that Gen. Huerta will resist all overtures, say he admits financial weakness, but is convinced he can get enough money to keep up a dogged, if intermittent campaign against the rebels. According to those informants Gen. Huerta does not expect to bring about ratification for many months, but until it is accomplished he will not resign. They add that he is still expecting congress to meet and that they will annul the recent election.

The financial situation here changed slightly for the better today. Some banks are putting out silver.

## Right of Possession.

The lovely girl, having lingered a minute in her room to adjust her transformation, change the angle of her Grecian band, and make sure that her skirt fitted like the peeling of a plum, descended to the parlor to find the family pet ensconced upon the knee of the young man caller, her curly head nestled comfortably against his shoulder.

"Why, Mabel," the young lady exclaimed, "aren't you ashamed of yourself! Get right down."  
"Shan't do it," retorted the child. "I got here first."

## Notice.

By virtue of a Deed of Trust executed to me by J. R. Davis and wife for the benefit of J. C. Hollingsworth, to secure a note of seven hundred seventy dollars payable monthly on the first day of Dec. 1911, \$10 per month and providing that failure to pay any of said notes shall cause the entire amount to become due, and default having been made and the note being now past due, on application of J. C. Hollingsworth I will sell for cash on the 8th day of Dec. 1913 at 1 o'clock, P. M. in front of the Town Hall in Mount Airy, N. C. to the highest bidder the following real estate, to-wit: Lying and being in Surry County, N. C., in the town of Mt. Airy, beginning at a stake set on East edge of Junction St. and runs with said street N. 3 degrees East 60 feet to a stake; thence N. 87½ degrees East about 210 feet to a planted rock; thence South 4 degrees W. 60 feet to a planted rock; thence S. 87½ degrees W. about 209 feet to the beginning.

This Nov. 6, 1913.  
R. E. Hollingsworth,  
Trustee.

## E. J. Justice is Given Good Job.

Washington, Nov. 8.—E. J. Justice of Greensboro, who some months ago declared himself a candidate to succeed Senator Overman, has been offered, and probably will accept, a position as special prosecutor in the department of justice, which may possibly take him out of the Senatorial race.

In the new position, which carries a salary of \$7,500 a year, he will rank as the third highest man in the department, being next in line to Attorney General McReynolds and the first assistant.

Attorney General Reynolds has been casting about for several weeks for a lawyer "large enough" to take charge of a case in California involving two million acres of land, valued at about \$40,000,000. Remembering the fine work that Mr. Justice did for the government in the tobacco cases, he grasped the opportunity of adding the North Carolinian to his forces as soon as he learned his engagement was possible.

The term of Mr. Justice is indefinite, but it is believed that after he concludes the California case he will be urged to take up the government's program of anti-trust litigation. This will leave the way open for Mr. Justice to continue his work with the department or jump into the Senatorial race whenever he thinks best. Mr. Justice's appointment was strongly urged upon McReynolds by Secretary Daniels and Commissioner Osborne. Following the usual course, Senators Simmons and Overman were consulted regarding the appointment and declared it would give them much pleasure to see Mr. Justice appointed.

Mr. Justice preferred tonight not to discuss whether or not his new position would eliminate him from the Senatorial race. Mr. Justice is expected to leave for California next week to take up his new duties.

## Watch Heavens; Fine Meteor Showers in Prospect.

Owing to the remarkably beautiful nights with which November is blessed this year, there will be a correspondingly fine opportunity to observe the periodic displays of meteors falling due in the present month. The unusually clear skies now in evidence appear explainable by the fact that the general and excessive rains of this season have prevented widespread forest fires, the smoke of which so frequently obscures the heavens and darkens the atmosphere during autumn.

The most notable swarm of November's periodic meteor showers is to be looked for within the next six days, radiating from the constellation Leo, moving very swiftly and sometimes in large numbers, with bright and long continuous trains. A fine fore-runner of this swarm was reported early last month in the west of England, illuminating the heavens like a flash of lightning. According to Nature, it was probably a meteor of the Leonard type, though unfortunately the night was too cloudy to bring out its full splendor, variegated by bluish and greenish tints. But as the earth passes in the middle of November through that part of the great ring of Leonid meteors, moving around the sun in which the meteoric matter is abundant, the fire balls ought very soon to become numerous and conspicuous in our skies.—New York Herald.

## Swamp Root's Maker Left Over Two Millions.

Ringhamtown, N. Y., Nov. 10.—The treasurer of Broome county will file with the County Surrogate a statement appraising the estate of the late James M. Kilmer of this city, explorer of Swamp-Root, a patent medicine, at \$2,600,000. The fortune of William Sharpe Kilmer, his son, who is now in Europe, is estimated at about the same amount. The fortune was built in 20 years. When the elder Kilmer started the manufacture of Swamp-Root his original outfit consisted of a big iron kettle and a few gallons of ingredients.