Near The Cross

Fanny Crosby writes her last poem

The lady of the house in Bridgeport, Conn., rapped gently at the door of the room where the little woman lived alone. Aunt Fanny had not come out all morning and it was getting near time for the parade. The lady rapped again. When there was still a answer she cracked the door open and looked in.

Fanny Crosby lay just as she had gone to bed the night before but, sometime during the night, her soul had slipped away.

On the writing table, near the bed, was a little American flag. On the table, too, was a letter of con-solation to parents of a little girl who had died the

So closed, on Feb. 12, 1915, the career of Frances Jane Crosby, the most prollific writer of Christian songs who ever lived. And Fanny Crosby had known more United States presidents than anybody who ever lived. That's why the little 95-year-old woman had put the flag on the table. She planned to wave the purpose commemorating the birthday of her it in the parade commemorating the birthday of her friend, Abraham Lincoln.

Jesus, keep me near the cross, There a precious fountain Free to all-a healing stream, Flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Near the crass, a trembling soul, Love and mercy found me; There the Bright and Morning Star

Near the Cross! O Lamb of God. Bring its scenes before me; Help me walk from day to day, With its shadows o'er me.

Near the cross I'll watch and walt,

Fanny Crosby had lost her sight at the age of 6 weeks when a country doctor prescribed a poultice for her inflamed eyes. But she insisted her blindness was a blessing. Not disturbed by things

FANNY CROSBY SAID, too, she didn't want to

be that of her Saviour.

Friends put the little flag in Aunt Fanny's hand buried it with her. Like somebody said, the angels might want her to lead a parade in heaven. At the cemetery they sang some of "Aunt Fanny's" own that of her Saviour.

You will reach the river brink

O the loved ones waiting there By the tree of life so fair.



From The Book 'A HYMN IS BORN" Copyright 1952 WILCOX-FOLLETT CO., Chicago, Ill.

much good as you can for your fellow man as you journey along life's way?

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It is a good custom which sets We need not only an inventory of the things which matter most?

New Year as a time for inventory. our businesses to see how we are doing; we need an inventory of our lives. Sometime we are so busy with many things that we miss the most mportant things. We remember the story of the soldier set to guard a prisoner, with the command, "Keep this man: if by any means he be missing, then shall thy life be for his life." The soldier let the

> and there, he was gone." (IKings What are the most important things in your life? Is it to live a truly worth-while life, becoming a better man, as you look toward God as he has revealed Himself in Jesus Christ? Is it to be a loving and good husband? And father? Is it to give a dear old mother reason for pride in you and evidence of your care-for her? Is it to accomplish as where the old woman found her

prisoner escape. His sad story was,

"And as thy servant was busy here

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about her, she said, she could write more easily.

Even as a child of 8 years she wrote:

O what a happy child am I

Although I cannot see, am resolved that in this world Contented I will be.

see anything on earth because, when her eyes were opened in heaven, the first face she would see would

the cemetery they sang some of "Aunt Fanny's" own hymns, like "Safe in the Arms of Jesus" and this one she wrote in 1869 to go with a piece of music Com-poser William Howard Doane wrote and sent her.

Hoping, trusting ever,
Till I reach the golden strand,
Just beyond the river.

HERE IS THE letter Fanny Crosby wrote to the bereaved parents of the little neighbor girl . . . it was her last poem.

Some sweet day, by and by, You will find your broken link Some sweet day, by and by.

Til you come, their job to share, Some sweet day, by and by.

We all have to make a living, but

our real objective is to live a life.

It is good to sit down and think

at new years. Are we crowding out

Carlton F. Hirschi

HAPPINESS

Some people believe if they can

acquire more possessions they will

have happiness. They therefore de-

sire a new automobile, a washing

machine or a television set. Happin-

ess does not depend upon our pos-

Some people seek happiness for

itself, centering their life in self.

Josh Billings, the American humor-

ist, said "if you ever find happiness

by looking for it, you will find it

spectactles, right on the end of your

nose." Happiness comes in giving

yourself, not through selfish seek-

Christians are not and should not

be concerned about their own hap-

piness. We will be happy when we

to the will of God. Jesus was in-

terested in doing the will of God. He

was not concerned about His own

included the cross, which he did

Jesus said, "I will tell you the

secret of happiness in life. It is

with those who have the brotherly

spirit, they shall receive it in re-

turn. It is with the single hearted

they shall see God in everything, It

is with those who have suffered

new world is open to them. The

secret of happiness is yours when

men insult and ill treat and slander

you just because you are trying to

be my disciples. Be exultant about

it. There is the joy of a great as-

surance in such persecution; for

so you get a place in the prophetic

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would be fewer of them in it.

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lst, 3rd, and 5th. Sunday evenings REV. J. T. HAYTER, JB., PASTOR Grove Church 2nd and 4th Sunday mernings

Hallsville Church 1st and 3rd Sunday morings REV. W. H. GOODMAN, PASTOR

Beulaville Church Every Sunday morning PINK HILL GROUP Rev. Farrior, Paster Pink Hill—Third Sunday A. M. and 1st Sunday P. M. Women of the Church

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Lesson for January 10, 1954

IT LOOKS as if the last thing said in this column last week METHODIST CHURCHES indignation rather than love? Two Wallace - Every Sunday morning

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unday School every Sunday

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CENTRE

Scripture: John 2.

Authority of God

were not true. The power of Christ. it was said, is not the power of force, but of love. And yet Jesus (as we read in John) made a whip of cords and drove the moneychangers out of the Temple. Is this not a use of force? Was he not using compulsion? Was this not

things have to be said at this point. One is that this is hardly a case of physical force. There were many money - changers and any number of Temple police. Jesus was no Sampson or Goliath. If there had

been any show of Dr. Foreman resistance, how much would a corded whip have done? No, the whip was a symbol, not a weapon The other thing we should say is that the power of love is not always gentle. Love can be stern. And it was love for God and reverence for his house and worship. that roused Jesus to drive out the men who were desecrating the holy

Power of Personality

Jesus did use force; but it was not physical force. It was moral His weapons were powerful but my sible. One reason for his success in driving out those temple racketeers, single-handed, was no doubt his own personality. We all know the difference between weal and strong personalities. Painters. have sometimes pictured Jesus and a weak and dreamy-looking char acter: he was certainly nothing the sort. It is not necessary to thi of him as a big brute of a ma most likely he was not. But we all tours of occasions when a s er small man, or small woman that matter, has dominated the consion by sheer force of pesson in Can we not feel certain the

Jenus personality was even in compelling? There are persons whose mere presence can stop ome snameful thing from our Lord was printe of ons. Some years ago stich ne: been disasters in Scot is a recovery measure a ttery was proposed One nister wrote one letter pers, showing up that cheme for what it was topped the bad business every man's letter would have had such an effect; buf P. T. Forsyth was a known man

Authority of God It can also be said with truth that Jesus acted there at the Temple with the authority of God. He did not say, "You must move be-cause I am Son of God and I say so." He simply said: "Take these things away. You must not make my Father's house a house of trade." As a matter of fact, we know from sources outside the Bible just what that money-changing and cattle-selling racket was. It was not honest business at all. When a Jew would come to the Temple wishing to offer a sacrifice, these people, who had a monopoly in that business, would sell him one of their animals, at are outrageous price. The priests would accept no others, so between the cattle-sellers and the priests the sacrificer had no choice but to buy what they said for the price they demanded. Then the Temple authorities would not accept offerings in any but local money; and the money-changers (also tied upwith the priests) would charge terrific rates for exchanging coins of the realm into local shekels. The point is, Jesus spoke to bad men, running a bad business, with a bad conscience; spoke in the name of the God of right and justice. The authority of the right is the authority of God. No wonder the racketeers scattered.

Bad men do not always run They sometimes fight. Bad businesses such as the narcotics racket. and the liquor traffic have hard consciences. Still it is true now as it was long ago, that evil practices in church or out will continue till some one person has the courage to confront them in the name of God and right. One man, John Woolman, an obscure working man, was the personal wedge that worked into the consciences of Quakers and from them on into society, convincing men that the slavery business was wrong. One man, again and again, has been the spark that has set fire to an-cient rubbish and lighted the night

with the flame of God.

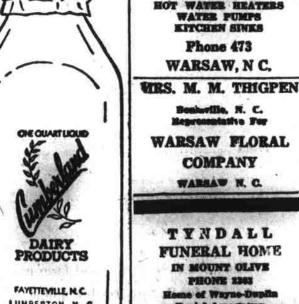
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BY REV. C. HERMAN TRUEBLOOD

Forward Go - In Fifty-Four!

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To Church Sunday-

day)

TEXT: "And the Lord said -- speak unto the children of Israel, that REV J. M. NISBETT, PASTOR they go forward." Exodus 14:15.

The word January, the beginning of months, is derived from the word, Janus; and Janus was the Roman God of Gates and Doors. He is represented as having two faces, one looking backward, and the other forward. So it must be with every serious-minded person as he stands upon the threshold of a new year; naturally, he looks back at the fading year, and forward to the new year fast approaching, with its new chal-Third Sunday Evening lenge and opportunity for making life more worth living. The sentiment Oak Plains Church of the above text will be saying to every child of God: "Forward Go! In First Sunday Night

headaches - but failure is still much

Culture is the thing that makes us think we will like something we

STIFFER PENALTY

The trouble is that too many

speeding drivers are never going

Get into politics and you'll find

out things about yourself you never

RED ASH

BRIQUET

COAL

FUEL OIL and

KEROSENE

Mt. Olive, N. C.

anywhere - not even to jail.

nore severe.

know we won't

knew before

In this connection, the Old Testament story of the children of Israel in Egyptian bondage, and their liberation by Moses, their divinelyappointed leader, affords us some timely lessons as a new year confronts us. The Isralites were at a turning point in their "up and down" career, and God, through Moses, was saying to them: "Go Forward!" To them as to us. Going Forward, means:

1. UNHESITATING DECISION. For four hundred and thirty years the Isralites had been slaves in Egypt. Now they had a chance for freedom. It was no time to argue about the past, or to dilly-dally with the precious God-given time of the present. Standing still just murmuring, whining over "spilt milk," of the past never got any body anywhere. Getting out of bondage, on the part of the Isralites, called for forthright resolution, unfaltering determination, and indomitable courage. And all of that will be required of many of us, if fifty-four is to be any better than fifty-three.

2. UNWAVERING FAITH, Faith in God; faith in their leader, Moses faith in their cause; and faith in themselves was necessary. Fear and pessimism are enemies to victory; looking for the worst will bring the worst. Where there is faith in God, and faith in the ultimate victory of a righteous cause, we can look for the best. Said Moses to the people: 'The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." Exodus 14:14. Forward Go, In Fifty-Four, can become a happy reality in the life of every one whose faith is anchored in God, and whose life is allied with the forces of righteousness, in honoring God, and helping to make the world better for all mankind

3. UNFALTERING ACTION. Faith is tremendously important; "Without faith it is impossible to please God." Heb. 11:6. However, Faith Afone s not enough, there must be action. "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone." James 2:17. To get out of Egyptian bondage, it was not only necessary for the Isralites to DECIDE, and have FAITH IN God; they had to ACT. Wishful thinking, never got any body across Red Sea; Decision, Faith in God, coupled with heroic human Action, got the Isralites out of Egypt, across the sea, headed toward the Promised Land. And such will be the experience of all who decide, believe, and act. "And the Lord said unto Moses, wherefore criest thou unto me? Speak unto the children of Israel, that they GO FORWARD "



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