

A Roman Soldier

By REV. STEPHEN PAULSON

TEXT—Now, when the centurion saw what was done he glorified God saying, Certainly this was a righteous man—Luke 23, 47.

Jesus has been brought to Calvary. The chosen place has been reached and the soldiers settle to their work. The cross is gotten ready. The upright beam is laid upon the ground handy to the hole into which the end will slip. Jesus is laid upon the beams and sharp pointed spikes are driven through the palm of each hand, and through the feet. Then strong hands seize the upper end and shift the cross into place; and as he is lifted up on high the first words from the sufferer are: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Standing by through the whole of the crucifixion was the centurion, whose duty it was to see that everything was properly done. It is not to be assumed that he was any better than his fellow-officers, but it may be assumed that he did not relish his day's work. When a soldier is called to war and wounds he is proud, for that is his calling; but when he is detailed to guard an execution he is filled with disgust, for this is a humiliation.

With his company this centurion had gone on duty in the morning at Pilate's palace, and it was late afternoon before they were released. He had heard the trial of Jesus, and helped to keep the howling rabble back. He had handed Jesus over to his men for scourging and looked on with a callousness born of a rough life. He had escorted Jesus and the malefactors through the streets and taken care that they were kept safe for legal punishment. He had selected the site for the crosses and seen that they were firmly set. And as the rabble passed by mocking Jesus, and as his men gambled for his garments, the centurion had sat on his horse silent, watchful, immovable.

When the criminals were proved to be dead, and the bodies had been disposed of he gathered his company together and marched them back to the barracks. He went to his room and removed his heavy armor which had been like a fiery prison in the hot sun. It had been a long day for the centurion and a sorry day's work, and he was glad in his soul that it was over.

Yet the centurion knew that this day would never pass from his memory. Perhaps he had assisted at many crucifixions, but he had never had a prisoner like Jesus. As he stood before Pilate there was about him a certain dignity of manhood and bravery of soul, which neither bonds nor insults could obscure. Ordinary men had been degraded by the mockings and scourgings; this man left the degradation with his enemies. Common men had cried out in their pain as they were fastened to the wood; this man had lifted up his voice in prayer for those who were torturing him. From the cross this man had cared for his mother and his last words had been words of triumph as if a great task had been accomplished. This spectacle of moral heroism had its effect upon the blunt and honest soldier, and it needed not the darkness and the earthquake to call forth his confession. "Certainly this was a righteous man; truly this was a son of God."

The excellency of our Master comes out after the same fashion to every soul, but has various avenues of access. To some he comes by the avenue of intellect. To some he comes by the avenue of the heart and the emotions. There are others to whom the Lord has come as the revelation and incarnation of duty. They are practical people and they receive the Master with their conscience. For years they have been doing their duty by the best light they had. They have also certain unrealized ideals. One day they find them fulfilled in the Master, and henceforth he becomes their model and their Lord.

What a multitude of men there are in every land whose one idea is not to save their souls or to earn a reward, but to do faithfully the work which God has laid to their hand. They make provision for those whom they love, or who are left to their charge; they help where they can any worthy cause, and unfortunates in trouble. They are honorable merchants, workers, sailors or soldiers, and upon conscientious unremitting labor depends the welfare of society. Often they have hateful and heavy work, in the mines and mills and furnaces, or under the blazing sun like the centurion. Yet who commands them for doing their duty? No one but Christ, who says "Well done good and faithful servant." This is the class of men among whom Christ worked and to whom his gospel should come with the greatest power, and one day they will see that Jesus is the ideal and example of all men who labor.

Thankful Joy in God.

The Christian believer's practical experience may be defined as the present-life fruitage of Christian faith and practice; eminently the resulting effects of Christian duties and graces—of daily exercised faith and hope and love, combined with praise and thankfulness, meditation upon the word and communion with the spirit of God, and faithful service to man. And all these particulars proceed from heart acceptance of the essential facts of the one gospel of grace.

Furthermore, since Christian experience is not an originating source or force, since it is an effect and not a cause, it should not be appealed to as a source or a cause. But it should be counted as a means and condition that brings to the loyal-souled believer an abiding peace of mind, rest of heart and thankful joy—in God.

Temptation.

If you cannot remove temptation from the boys, then reverse the order and take the boy away from temptation.—Rev. Roby Day, Methodist, Kansas City.

TEMPERANCE NOTES

DRINK QUESTION IN ENGLAND

President of Board of Education Tells of Good Work Done by Temperance Syllabus.

The president of the board of education (England), Mr. Runciman, speaking recently on the temperance syllabus issued by the board, said:

Already nearly 250 local authorities out of 350 had adopted the syllabus. There ought to be no part of the country where the work based on that syllabus was not being conducted, either voluntarily or by the teachers.

No class of the community in the United Kingdom were more alive to the evils of intemperance than the teachers in the schools. They saw it face to face every day, and they had the worst possible examples of the harm done by intemperance brought into the schools. They knew perfectly well nothing was to be made of the coming generations unless they were brought up to hate all forms of strong drink. He was of opinion that no teaching in their elementary schools could be done by outsiders as well as by the teachers themselves. But they had to fill up the gaps and provide the driving power, and that was where the Band of Hope Union came in as regarded the elementary schools.

Dealing with the progress which temperance had made during the last 20 years, Mr. Runciman pointed out that public houses had very largely ceased to be the meeting places of people who hired employees. Friendly societies and trade unions were also, to a large extent, forsaking the public house for meeting purposes.

As to the decline per head in the consumption of alcoholic liquors, the figures published year by year showed that it was not an accidental decline, but the tendency downward was to some extent the result of the work that had been done amongst the young 30 or 40 years ago.

Touching upon the old controversy that men could not be made sober by act of parliament, Mr. Runciman said everybody knew that if the government legislated too far ahead of public opinion they ran two great risks, first of evasion, and secondly of rebound. He quite agreed that they could not make people sober by act of parliament, but they could help them to be sober. That was one of the things the government had been trying to do in recent years.

In the final consumption of intoxicating liquors had also been contributed to during the last twelve months by the heavy taxation on whisky. He did not regret that. He quite agreed somebody must have suffered, but he did not think it had been the nation as a whole. They could not have taxation without throwing burdens on someone, and he knew no trade which could better bear the burden of taxation than that which made profits out of strong drink.

In conclusion, Mr. Runciman said that they might well ask the reason why in a great country like ours, which professes to be really democratic, things which were good for the nation should be impeded by the enormous influence of the public house. Parliaments assembled and did what they could not in the way of social reform, but if at the back of it all elections might be turned and public opinion distorted by public house influences, it was impossible for the nation to reach either its highest efficiency or its best ideals.

A Swedish Expert on Drink.

Svered Ribbing, the famous professor of medicine at the Swedish university of Lund, makes these remarkable statements in concluding an address on one phase of the drink curse:

"How large a per cent of moral downfalls are caused through drink I am unable to say, but certainly it is not infrequent that you hear from many a questioned youth for an answer. 'I was somewhat under the influence of liquor.' Through drunkenness and in drunkenness one accustoms himself to conditions which, under ordinary circumstances, would be religiously shunned. In course of time the sense of shame is overcome, and silenced, and the evil habits are looked upon as an everyday necessity. The cases when a young man will in cold-bloodedness and with a clear head, and with decided intention, throw himself into the arms of prostitution are very seldom in comparison with those that happen under the influence of liquor. A British army physician has shown figuratively that sickness in a troop is much less among the total abstainers than among the men who drink."

What a multitude of men there are in every land whose one idea is not to save their souls or to earn a reward, but to do faithfully the work which God has laid to their hand. They make provision for those whom they love, or who are left to their charge; they help where they can any worthy cause, and unfortunates in trouble. They are honorable merchants, workers, sailors or soldiers, and upon conscientious unremitting labor depends the welfare of society. Often they have hateful and heavy work, in the mines and mills and furnaces, or under the blazing sun like the centurion. Yet who commands them for doing their duty? No one but Christ, who says "Well done good and faithful servant." This is the class of men among whom Christ worked and to whom his gospel should come with the greatest power, and one day they will see that Jesus is the ideal and example of all men who labor.

Restrictive Measures in Germany.

The German military authorities are endeavoring to stop the excessive drinking of intoxicating liquors in the army. The sale of brandy has been prohibited in all the canteens in Loraine and Hesse-Nassau. In the thirty soldiers' homes and similar institutions for sailors no alcoholic drinks are served.

Unselfishness.

Unselfishness is so inseparably linked with motherhood that the possibility of overstepping safe boundaries and thus creating selfish instincts in the boy or girl for whom you are making all the sacrifices seldom suggests itself—think about the matter some time.

Let Drink Alone.

Let drink alone, young man. It has never helped anybody, and it has ruined and is ruining millions in mind and body and pocket. It turns kind men into cruel men, loving husbands into wife-beaters, fond fathers into slayers of their children.

ALPS ARE PIERCED BY ANOTHER TUNNEL



THE MEETING ON THE ROCK-BORERS

COYOTE IS MALIGNED

Bravest Animal Alive, Declares Former U. S. Marshal.

That is information Given Out by Jack Abernathy of Oklahoma, Better Qualified for Talk Than Any Other Person.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—The coyote has been greatly maligned. Instead of being the worst coward in the animal kingdom it is the bravest living creature. That is the information coming from Catch-'Em-Alive Jack Abernathy, former United States marshal, and better qualified for discussing the coyote, perhaps, than any other living man.

Recently while discussing coyote-hunting with some friends, Abernathy gave utterance to some statements that are surprising.

"There is a mistaken impression regarding the coyote," he said. "I have caught a thousand of them and I never made one yelp with pain. They would rather run than fight, but when they are cornered they fight like the very old Nick and die without a whimper.

"I would rather catch a wolf alive than a coyote. The wolf is larger, but the coyote is quicker."

"The coyote never hunts trouble. I never had one attack me unless I had started the fight. He sleeps the greater part of the day and forages at night. I have noticed that they are braver at night than in the daytime."

"As to their intelligence—why, dang it, they're the smartest things living. They are more cunning than a fox. They can ambush a dog with more skill than a Mississippi nigger can invade a hen roost on a dark night. Their favorite trick is to 'double' dogs when being chased. I had a fine greyhound killed once by this trick. Three dogs were chasing a coyote. The trail led through a rough country

and the wolf, as they are commonly called on the ranges, led the dogs into a trap. A half dozen other coyotes came out from a ravine and took after the dogs. Suddenly the wolf that was being pursued stopped and in a moment there was the all-frightest fight you ever saw. They killed one of the dogs before I could get close enough to unlimber my Winchester and get into the game.

"A wolf knows when he is in danger and when he is not. Once I had a corgi of chickens in camp. The coyotes were prowling about, so I took the coop out on the prairie not far away and surrounded it with wolf traps. Early the next morning I took my revolver and went out to see if I had caught anything. Not a trap had been disturbed. While I stood there seven of the rascals swooped up out of the darkness and surrounded me. They came up to within ten feet of me and I began to expect a fight. I drew away from them, making toward camp, thinking to unchain the dogs and have an early morning chase. They followed, but when they caught smell of the dogs, they took to their heels.

"There is something queer about the howling of coyotes. It reminds me more of Indians dancing than anything else. I think the Indians learned some of their antics from the coyotes; and then again when you remember how smart the dogged coyote is, it may have been the other way, he may have caught the trick from watching the Indians.

"One night, several years ago, I saw a coyote come loping along until he reached a little knoll, where he stopped. He sat up on his haunches and emitted a gassy long-drawn yowl. Silence followed; then another yowl. In ten minutes a dozen other coyotes gathered around him. Instead of sitting up on their haunches like the first ones they circled around him. In a radius of about ten feet in a kind of a 'hitch-and-a-trot' lope, howling, first a short yelp and then

Trenton, N. J.—Whether the coast of New Jersey is sinking about two feet a century is to be ascertained this summer. At a meeting of the board of managers of the state geological survey, State Geologist Kummel reported that he had made arrangements with Prof. D. W. Johnson of Harvard university to make the necessary research.

Some scientists have held that the Atlantic seacoast was sinking at the rate of two feet every hundred years, and the theory has come to be generally accepted. Professor Johnson will come to this state and prosecute the study under a research fund established at Harvard. The result is expected to have an important bearing on the coast levels established in this state 25 years ago.

London—After a 12,000-mile journey from Adelaide, South Australia, a flock of pedigree white Leghorn poultry has arrived at the Garth Poultry farm, Gian Conway, Denbighshire. The fowls were obtained from A. H. Pudman, whose white Leghorns secured the world's record for egg laying in the twelve months' competition which terminated on March 31, 1910, held at Gatho, Queensland.

The six hens laid 1,531 eggs, valued at \$30, during the year, which works out to an average of about 255 eggs per hen. The hens now at Gian Conway are descendants of these birds.

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