

## Four Bums Plus Faith and Work

(Philadelphia North American.)

One winter evening, three years ago, four apologetic men happened to meet and get acquainted in a little mission over in Vine street.

From a recent article in the World's Work, we take this description of the quartet:

Arthur W. Taylor was a college man. He had been brought up in a Christian household by Christian parents. His ability had crowned him with early success, and before he had turned 25 he held a high-salaried position as a traveling accountant for the Standard Oil Company. But the subtle, mysterious workings of rum "got him." He lost his position, his friends discarded him. He took to "the road," and for years he followed the tramp routes of the continent.

A scion of one of Virginia's oldest families was the second of the quartet, George A. Tyler. He lived respectably with his wife and family in a quiet southern town. An associate with his father in the lumber business, prominent in church and social circles, he had everything to live for. An occasional drink at the club started him on the downward path, and little by little he lost his self-control. In time even the environment and responsibilities of his home had no influence. He left town, after five years of active business life and fell rapidly to the level of a common tramp, roaming over the country and begging enough money with which to satisfy temporarily his thirst for strong drink.

Randolph M. Lawrence was a civil engineer. His parents were wealthy, and at the time he commenced his career his prospects for the future were far brighter than those of the average man. Unfortunately, he acquired the habit of drink. Through the medium of various so-called "cures" he tried in vain to stop. Finally, he left home rather than bring disgrace to his brothers and sisters. For fifteen years he fought; but when he rode into Philadelphia on a freight, discouraged at heart and emaciated in body, only the cheapest and most virulent brands of whisky seemed to appease his ever-increasing craving.

The only one of the four who did not fall was George Long. Born and brought up a true son of the tenderloin, he had nothing to fall from. At 14, having been already thoroughly schooled in the ways and means of the underworld, he launched himself upon his career as a "grafter." He soon acquired the uses of cocaine and morphine as stimulants. For twenty years he had been an habitue of the dens of vice in the large cities. After a while the sight of him became repellant even to the keepers of the lowest resort and he had been thrown out time and time again from the filthiest brothels in several cities.

In the mission each of these found what they were pleased to call a "new cure," and after having seen it work with success on several of their underworld associates, they drew up and signed the following declaration:

"We, with all humility, being four men who have been to the very gates of hell, and who, only through the gracious love and saving power of our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, have been redeemed, herewith, this first day of February, 1911, consecrate our lives to him and his work. Our object and endeavor shall be, by the love, grace and power of God, through his son, Jesus Christ, to redeem the fallen, giving aid, help, comfort, strength and sympathy, both material and spiritual, to the needy, and to do His blessed will, as He reveals it to us at all times and at all

places, to hasten the coming of His kingdom."

That was the beginning of the "Inasmuch Mission," which a few weeks ago opened at 1011 Locust street, on the fringe of "Hell's Half Acre," a \$100,000 mission hotel, where a homeless man can get a decent room for a dollar a week and a good meal for 15 cents.

Only one of the four remains in the mission. Taylor dropped out to prepare for the ministry. Lawrence went back home to live a decent life. Tyler has joined his father in business. Long still is on hand to help any down-and-outer who shows the least desire to help himself.

Since these four men held their first meeting in the dingy front room of a ramshackle house in the center of "Hell's Half Acre"—a house lent to them by Dr. George Woodward, who owned twenty such in the neighborhood, but wouldn't rent them for such use as formerly had been made of them—more than a hundred thousand men have been fed and sheltered by them.

For three summers their tent meetings on the lot now occupied by the mission hotel were centers not only of human reclamation work, but a new sort of practical Christianity—a sort that gets a man a job.

In the summer of 1912 this latter work was undertaken. It came about through the interest of one of the owners of the Lukens steel mills, in Coatesville, who said he'd be willing to try out some of the "Inasmuch" converts if they chose to accept free transportation.

The experiment was a success. The good example was followed by the Cambria Steel company at Johnstown, and the Carnegie Steel company at Pittsburgh. Also, the Baldwin Locomotive Works, in this city, joined in.

"To lead men like these to Jesus and then leave them without a job isn't fair," said one of the four missionaries. Hence his inquiry among the steel mills, where the converts would have no chance to "live soft," and thus make a farce of their profession.

Within the first ten days after this move 300 converts had been put to work. Each of these and the many hundreds for whom jobs since have been secured are entered on a "follow-up" list. The Inasmuch brand of Christianity doesn't end with welcoming a man to fellowship in the great family of the faithful.

"We have found the solution of the social problem," said Mr. Long recently. "At least, so far as it has to do with this class of persons. It takes a 'down-and-outer' to reform a 'down-and-outer.'"

"No man knows that feeling of a crook who has led the life for years better than the reformed thief. He realizes his wants, the struggle he has for redemption and the fight. Social workers try hard, but they can't realize that feeling the other fellow has."

Starting with a capital of 27 cents plus faith beyond computation and a willingness to work hard, these four men set in motion a force that has worked wonders in one of the worst districts in the city. Their own willingness to make sacrifices enlisted first the interest and then the help of men and women who had seen many a bettering effort fail in this very same dive section.

Neither race, creed nor color stands in the way of the help that always is on tap at the Inasmuch Mission. But common sense is intermixed with all the religion there passed along. The habitual "convert" who steps in for another round

of food, shelter and sympathy goes away a wiser—and perhaps more thoughtful—man.

With the assistance and counsel of men and women attracted by the sincerity of the four founders, this unusual mission has in three years accomplished more than many a similar institution does in ten times that interval.

Into its open doors have wandered all sorts and conditions of men. Here a thief, a gambler, a drug fiend. There—not so long ago—a once-respected clergyman dragged down by drink. Again and again such human wrecks have gone in, to come out with new hope and fresh courage.

In Philadelphia are a great many factories. Their output goes around the world to satisfy the wants and needs common to humanity. But in all Philadelphia not one factory is quite so fine as this, which makes men over; and for no other reason than this, "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

## Gleaned from the Month's News

By a decisive vote the executive council of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, at the opening of the 46th annual convention at Nashville, Tenn., November 12, declared its political nonpartisanship and went on record as opposed to attacks upon any political party.

A Washington dispatch, dated November 15, says: The government has given its order for the evacuation of Vera Cruz, and that city will be returned to Mexican control November 23 unless some radical change in the situation there prevents. The American expeditionary force at Vera Cruz will embark on that date for Galveston and the Mexican factions will be left to work out their own destiny, the policy of watchful waiting having been altered in no respect.

A Mexico City dispatch, dated November 14 says: The news of Washington's determination to evacuate Vera Cruz has been received here with joy in all circles. Extra editions of the newspapers spread the tidings among the people of the capital. The department of education is planning for a great demonstration of students on November 23 to celebrate the event.

A Petrograd cablegram via London, November 14, says: Thousands of men, women and children stood since 4 a. m. this morning in a driving snow storm before the doors of the liquor shops on this, the last day on which it is possible to purchase light wine and beer under the prohibition act of the Russian government, which on Monday becomes absolute. Applicants for a final supply

of beverages came with baskets, sacks, carts and wheelbarrows, many having pawned their last belongings to procure means to purchase. This final prohibition act is the last of three distinct liquor reforms, the first curtailing the sale of vodka and the second abolishing it absolutely. The third measure extends the prohibition to every form of alcoholic drink in all portions of the empire under martial law. Cities included under the prohibition are Odessa, Riga, Warsaw, Moscow, Kiev and virtually all cities of western Russia.

A London cablegram of November 15 says: Field Marshall Earl Roberts died last night in France from pneumonia. Field Marshal Roberts, who was colonel-in-chief of the Indian troops, had gone to France to give them his greeting. Soon after his arrival he became seriously ill. He suffered from a severe chill on Thursday, and pneumonia rapidly developed. His great age, eighty-two years, militated against his recovery, the crisis in the disease coming very quickly.

The pulse of the nation's foreign commerce is showing steady improvement, according to the daily commerce statements received by Secretary McAdoo from the ten leading ports of entry, say an Associated Press dispatch dated November 16. Import business of last Thursday, based on reports from handling 87 per cent of all imports, amounted to \$2,330,512; exports from these ports handling 72 per cent of all exports, amounted to \$10,421,551. The daily average for these ports in November, 1913, was: Imports \$4,923,397; exports, \$6,983,426.

Secretary McAdoo determined last month to keep in close touch with the foreign commerce of the United States, noting from day to day the fluctuations of imports and exports. To that end he ordered the ten largest custom houses to make daily reports by wire of their business. The result is tabulated with comparative figures and as laid on Mr. McAdoo's desk affords instant information as to the course of foreign trade.

Since the first of November the total of the import report is \$51,627,759; exports, \$77,599,600. Since October 5 the totals have been: imports, \$156,627,759; exports, \$215,300,874.

Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo on November 16 signed the formal order announcing that the twelve federal reserve banks were established and ready for business. It was the final step required to set in motion the nation's new currency system and found the regional banks ready for operation.

The secretary sent the following telegram of congratulation to the federal reserve agent and governor of each federal reserve bank:

"Please accept my cordial congrat-

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