

JIM HICKS HEARS FROM HARDING ON RELIGION

"I have always believed in the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, whereby they have become the expression to men of the word and will of God. I believe that from every point of view the study of the Bible is one of the most worthy to which men may devote themselves, and that, in proportion as they know and

understand it, their lives and actions will be better.

"Very sincerely yours,
"Warren G. Harding."

The foregoing was sent to Jim Hicks, superintendent of the Prison Bible society of America, 768 West Van Buren street, by President Harding in a recent letter. "It is representative of my most earnest views," wrote the chief executive.

The message will be spread broad-

cast by Mr. Hicks, whose 1921 ambition is to distribute 250,000 Bibles, 250,000 pocket testaments, 500,000 Gospels and 100,000 religious song books in the jails and prisons of the United States.

"I, too, was a jailbird," smiled Jim Hicks today. He sat in the obscure office of the little mission on West Van Buren street. Near-by was the miniature kitchen where Jim Hicks prepared the soup, coffee and rye bread for 100 hungry men every night. Jim Hicks smiled—at the corners of the eyes, all over his rosy face.

"My picture's in the rogues' gallery at the South Clark street station right now," said Jim Hicks—still smiling. "I've done time in nineteen prisons. I was in the Virginia reformatory when I was 11 years old. I never went to school; dad raised me to be a moonshiner. I grew up a no-count rapsallion.

"One day, eight years ago, a man asked me to pray. It was in an Illinois prison, where I was serving sentence. I'd never prayed before, but I did, anyway. 'God be merciful to me, a sinner,' I said, over and over again.

"I prayed my way out of prison. That's a fact, sir. I'm traveling around the country all the time, convincing other convicts that they can do the same. I help 'em when they come out, get 'em food and clothes and jobs. By that time praying has become a habit with them and they straighten up and become good citizens for life."

Jim Hicks has preached—since that grim day of Feb. 6, 1913, when he came out of prison—in 1,000 churches in the middle west and 400 in Chicago. And his prayer always is substantially the same: "God be merciful to me, a sinner." He started his little mission six years ago. He never became an ordained minister. Methodist, Baptist, Lutheran, Mennonite, and Congregational churches numbering 300 have come to his aid. The Rev. S. P. Long is president of Jim Hicks' Bible society.

"Last year I carried the word of God to forty prisons in twenty-eight states," added Jim Hicks. "I handed 56,800 Bibles to men behind the cell doors. But, say, I'm just beginning. I need 250,000 Bibles this year for distribution; but I haven't got the money. My little society has grown in a few years from a local to a nationwide organization. But we've failed to reach over 700,000 men and women that were in our state prisons and 1,250,000 in our local jails.

"I'm 43 now. Before I go I want to have a Bible in every prison cell and a gospel meeting in every prison."

Then Jim Hicks smiled again. It was a crusader's smile.—Chicago News.

MR. BRYAN AND THE POWER OF ELOQUENCE

Great is oratory, and Mr. Bryan is its apostle. Age does not wither nor custom stale the matchless quality of his cultivated voice, the frankness of his address, the appeal of his earnestness and simplicity. Eloquence, he told an audience at the Grand Avenue temple, comes from the heart and goes to the heart. On that point let us speculate for a moment, using Mr. Bryan's own eloquence to illustrate.

In the twenty-five years that Mr. Bryan has occupied his place as America's leading political orator and lay lecturer he has given us plenty of opportunity to judge in what particular department of eloquence his chief effectiveness lies. We have seen him, for a short while at least, in congress and we think it must be admitted that in the deliberations of the house he did not take pre-eminent place. Perhaps the test was not fair, his service was

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Seven thousand persons each year are laid away—the burial certificate being marked "Rupture." Why? Because the unfortunate ones had neglected themselves or had been merely taking care of the sign (swelling) of the affliction and paying no attention to the cause. What are you doing? Are you neglecting yourself by wearing a truss, appliance, or whatever name you choose to call it? At best, the truss is only a makeshift—a false prop against a collapsing wall—and cannot be expected to act as more than a mere mechanical support. The binding pressure retards blood circulation, thus robbing the weakened muscles of that which they need most—nourishment.

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If you are weak, irritable, easily upset, don't sleep well, are under great stress, strain or worry, or if lack of iron in your blood is sapping your bodily and mental vigor, weakening your will power and thereby keeping you from making the money or the success in life that you should make, I would like for you to try me.

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