

## Story of One Man's Faith

Collier's Weekly prints an interesting story concerning Charles L. Goodell, pastor of the largest Methodist church in the world. From this article the following is taken:

"I am just out of state's prison!"

Dr. Goodell was in the midst of a revival service when a man stood up in the aisle and shouted these words at him in a voice that was harsh with excitement. The preacher paused in his discourse. The audience sat breathless and transfixed. Every glance was turned upon the man in the aisle. His head was bent forward. The muscles of his face were set. The beam of his eye rested steadily upon the face of the minister. After a moment that was tense almost to painfulness, he repeated his statement and amplified it.

"I am just out of state's prison. I was guilty of all that was charged and of things which were never found out. You have been saying things here which are tremendously true or terribly false. You have been talking about some One who could save people from their sins. You said it made no difference how wicked a man had been if he repented; that his sins would be blotted out. You said he would know he was forgiven and the sense of condemnation and guilt would be gone. Now, if you are saying what you do not know to be true, you ought to be ashamed. If you are holding out to a man like me a hope when there is no hope, you ought to stop it."

At this point, without appearing to cease speaking, the man's voice seemed to die out of him and he stood silent, but with the intensity of his pose unrelieved—and his hungry eyes searching the face of the preacher. The sincerity of the man obviously entitled him to every consideration. There was tragedy in the lines of his face and in the tones of his voice. He took some steps nearer, to bring himself directly in front of the chancel, and, stretching out his hand in a gesture of appeal, said:

"I want to know, sir, whether you believe that this religion you are preaching can save a man like me. You said that Jesus saved a thief on the cross. Do you believe that Jesus can save a thief now?" The man's chin quivered and his eyes swam as again the voice died out of him. The entire audience was moved by the force of his appeal. Dr. Goodell confesses that he felt it to his heels, but he felt also his faith rise within him at the challenge. He reached across the chancel rail and took the appealing, outstretched hand in his, saying, in a voice for all to hear:

"My brother, I have honestly declared a message in which I believe. I can not afford to preach a gospel that is not true, and I will not. I am ready to make this contract with you. If you will meet the conditions which are laid down in the Bible, by which a man may come to God, and you do not find salvation, I will never again go into this pulpit to preach!"

Something like a sigh swept over the audience as they realized the significance of the issues thus joined. As for the two men, they knelt together at the altar. There was an earnest exposition of the way of life by the doctor with the open Bible before him, with eager, earnest listening by the man. Thereafter the minister prayed fervently, and the seeker himself uttered a few broken sentences. There were other incidents of the revival service that night, but nothing comparable in importance to this one, and the congregation was dismissed in suppressed excitement. The service of the following night had been announced, but with the stipulation that Dr. Goodell would not preach except upon the condition which all now understood.

As the congregation passed out and left the doctor alone, and finally the man who had challenged his Gospel so strangely was also gone, Dr. Goodell began to feel a sinking at the heart. He realized that he had risked all the future of his ministry upon the chance issue of affairs in the soul of a highly emotional creature who had strayed into his meeting. Yet he reasoned with himself that he had done right and only what an honest preacher could do. He believed that redemption began here and now. If this man—if any honest seeker couldn't get it, then either there was no such thing or else he, the preacher, did not know how to proclaim it, and might therefore as well cease to preach as to continue.

However, Dr. Goodell did not sleep much that night, and the next day was a restless one for him. Some of his parishioners thought he had been too rash and came to tell him so, but he

withstood their urgings. Night came, and the hour for service. Dr. Goodell was at the church, but did not enter the pulpit. Instead he sat just inside the chancel rail with his eyes upon the door. Would the man come? Would he come a conqueror or a miserable failure, confessing defeat? The time to preach at length arrived, but the man did not. Dr. Goodell announced another hymn, and the congregation stood and sang:

"There is a fountain filled with blood," etc. As the last note died hasty steps were heard in the vestibule, then the doors swung open and a man—the man—with hair disheveled and his features dripping perspiration, rushed down the aisle.

"The car broke down," he exclaimed, breathlessly, but—"and his voice rose in hoarse notes of triumph—"you can go ahead and preach!"

### A BOSTON PROTEST AGAINST THE MONEY TRUST

The Boston Herald, in its issue of Monday, December 2, printed the following interesting article: The money trust has Boston in its grip and has been guilty of pernicious activity in defeating legislation, according to State Senator George Holden Tinkham, who has written about conditions here to Congressman A. J. Pujo, chairman of the congressional committee that has been investigating the money trust.

Mr. Tinkham, who is chairman of the legislative committee on banks and banking, thinks that his charges may lead to an investigation of Boston banking conditions by the congressional committee and a recommendation to congress of a law divorcing private banking houses from control of national banks.

His letter follows:

"I desire to bring to your attention and to the attention of your committee a certain recommendation of the national comptroller of the currency in his 1911 report; also a bill based on that recommendation which was introduced in the Massachusetts legislature this year. This bill attempted to put that recommendation into law in relation to Massachusetts trust companies, but was defeated through the pernicious activity of several large Boston banking houses and note broking firms. It appeared that members of these houses and firms were directors on a number of boards of national banks and trust companies, the firms of which they were members receiving commissions or bonuses and profits on sales of securities and underwriting made with such banks. One of the principal opponents of the bill was a banking house which had representation on nine boards of directors of national banks and trust companies.

"I have been chairman of the committee on banks and banking of the Massachusetts legislature for three years, and from my knowledge believe the recommendation, if enacted into law, would be of material assistance in diminishing the power of large banking houses controlling on boards of directors of national banks the use of money of depositors for their own selfish ends as against the legitimate demands of smaller and less favored borrowers.

"The recommendation on page 81 of the 1911 report of the comptroller of the currency is as follows: 'It is recommended that the taking or accepting of money or other valuable thing from a borrower by any officer of a national bank for his own personal use as a reward, inducement or consideration for obtaining the loan from the bank of which he is such officer shall be made an offense and punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary.' In a letter to me, dated April 13 last, the comptroller's office stated that the word 'officer' was meant to include directors.

"The very banking houses, through stock ownership and official management, are the same persons, interests and groups of individuals that own, dominate or control large corporate enterprises.

"Upon careful investigation I have come to the conclusion that their success over others in the same line of business is, in part, because of their control over the public funds in public depositories—the national banks and trust companies—and that 'their direction of the operation of these banks and trust companies in the purchase and sale of securities and loans of money have been used to further the enterprises and increase the profits of these groups of individuals from such transactions and to augment their power over the finances of the community and to control in part the money and

exchange security markets, and tends to prevent competition with the enterprises in which they are interested to the detriment of the general public.

"The same situation, I understand, although in a more acute form, exists in New York city.

"In accordance with House Resolution 405, under which your committee is acting, sec. F, page 5, it seems to me that any legislation suggested by your committee should contain a recommendation of a bill forbidding officers or directors of any national bank receiving, directly or indirectly, any commission, fee or consideration for or on account of any loan, purchase, sale, payment, exchange or transaction made by the national bank of which they are directors, which is the law in relation to directors of insurance companies in both New York and Massachusetts."

### TRIBUTE TO WOMANHOOD

James Oliver Curwood, author of "The Flower of the North," tells the following story about the men to be found in the country about Hudson bay, where the scene of this story is laid:

"I was at Prince Albert," he says, "sitting on the veranda of the little old Windsor hotel, facing the Saskatchewan. During the few days previous a number of factors, trappers and half-breed canoe men had come down from the north. One of these men had not been down to the edge of civilization for seven years. Three of the others had not been down in two, and this was the annual trip of the other eight—for there were just eighteen of us sitting there together.

"We were smoking and talking when a young woman turned up the narrow walk leading to the veranda. Immediately every voice was hushed, and as the woman came up the steps those twelve roughly clad men of the wilderness rose to their feet to a man, each holding his cap in his hand. Thus they stood, silent and with bowed heads, until the young woman passed into the hotel. It was the most beautiful tribute to womanhood I had ever seen. And I, the man from civilization, was the only one who remained sitting, with my hat on my head!"

—Denver News.

### CURRENCY LEGISLATION

The Dubuque (Ia.) Telegraph-Herald prints the following editorial: Mr. Bryan sounds warning of the purpose of the sinister financial influences back of the Aldrich currency scheme to force its adoption in the next congress.

It is almost incredible that so vicious a scheme as that proposed by the discredited senator from Rhode Island should be considered seriously in this enlightened hour when experience teaches that nothing of good in legislative matters can be expected from the Rhode Island genius.

His scheme, it may be recalled, proposes asset currency. Under its operation, this newspaper, let us say, borrows on its note at a national bank. The latter uses this note as a basis for asset currency notes. In other words, it makes the interest on the loan to this newspaper and then makes the interest on other money of its own issued on the basis of this newspaper's note. Stated another way, it makes one dollar serve the function of two. This, it is immediately apparent, is no more and no less than a proposal to give the bankers something for nothing, and is most vicious inflation.

Nor is this all. The bill furthermore substitutes for federal government control trustee, or group, control. The measure is one so dangerous in many respects that its adoption would be a genuine calamity.

### IN OTHER WORDS

The Chicago Inter-Ocean, famous or notorious, as you please, as the spokesman for the special interests, says: "Stop, Look, Listen!" says Mr. Bryan, in big black type, clear across the top of the first page of his Commoner. And when you've looked, even if you have neither stopped nor listened, you find that Mr. Bryan is solemnly warning congress to be on guard lest the 'big financiers who are behind the Aldrich currency scheme' rush the bill through the short session which began Monday. Why this portentous warning? Oh, naturally Mr. Bryan wants to postpone 'the reformation of the currency' till the new congress (democratic) can tackle the job under his supervision."

In other words Mr. Bryan believes that this important work should be undertaken by a congress and under an administration chosen in 1912 rather than by a congress chosen in 1910 and an administration chosen in 1908 both repudiated by the people in a most emphatic way.