

# Short Stories Told About Preachers

**A**LONDON clergyman tells a moving tale of innocence in the East end. A frail little girl came into a public house with a jug to get half a pint of liquor for her parents. When the jug was filled she nervously put down two half-pennies on the counter and started for the door. The barkeeper, although he hardly liked to frighten the timid little thing, called after her in a gentle voice, "You're a half-penny short, my dear." "No, you're a half-penny short," she answered, and disappeared.

A story is told of an English clergyman who owed his appointment to a rich living to a lucky pun. He was tutor to the son of a nobleman and had not long taken orders when he attended the funeral of the rector of the parish in which the nobleman's seat was situated.

The father of his pupil was patron of the living and was also present at the funeral of the deceased rector. There was a young clergyman present also, whose grief was so demonstrative that the noble patron was much affected by the sight and asked if the young man was a son of the deceased gentleman.

"Oh, dear no, my lord—no relation at all," said the tutor.

"No relation?" exclaimed the nobleman, in a surprised tone.

"None, my lord, he is the curate, and I think he is not weeping for the dead, but for the living."

His lordship, who was something of a wit and a cynic himself, was so delighted with the bon mot that he conferred the living upon the ready punster.

Pere Monsabre may appropriately be called the Father Burke of France, relates the London M. A. P. He is just as fond of a joke as was his famous Irish brother. He once had to preach a charity sermon in a little provincial town where he was not known to any of the priests. On arriving at the presbytery he put on a very coarse accent and in ungrammatical language informed those who had expected him that Pere Monsabre was not well, so the superior had sent him to preach in his place. The poor priests were in despair; they tried every argument to dissuade him from preaching; they offered every inducement for his return to Paris. He of course remained obdurate to all appeals. "He'd do his best," he said, "but they must be sure and give him a good breakfast beforehand." He kept up the joke until he got into the pulpit. The delightful surprise of the anxious priests may be imagined when, instead of harsh, provincial utterances of the unsmooth stranger, they heard the soft, mellow tones of the great preacher.

Probably no two ministers in the country are better known than Bishop J. H. Vincent of the Methodist Episcopal church and Rev. Dr. P. S. Henson, for many years pastor of the leading Baptist church of Chicago, relates Lippincott's Magazine.

Bishop Vincent was the leading spirit in the Chautauqua assemblies and always on the lookout for attractive speakers. Dr. Henson had prepared a lecture entitled "Fools," and he was eagerly engaged to deliver it at Chautauqua.

There was an immense audience, and Dr. Vincent introduced him, saying:

"Ladies and gentlemen, we are to have a great treat this evening, in the shape of a lecture on 'Fools' by one—"

Here there was a look of consternation in the faces on the platform and a ripple of laughter through the audience. Pausing until this subsided, the speaker continued: "Of the brightest men in the country."

This witty surprise caused tumultuous merriment, which did not subside for a moment after Dr. Henson came forward. There was a gleam in his eye, and everybody was curious to hear how he would treat this unique introduction. He began:

"Ladies and gentlemen, I am not half as big a fool as Dr. Vincent—"

Here the laughter broke forth again with redoubled vigor. Pausing, in his turn, until it had quieted down, he continued:

"Would have you believe?"

The lecturer made a graceful bow to his introducer, and the roar that greeted this ready sally was such that it was some time before he could begin his lecture.

It is related of the late bishop of Oxford, Dr. Stubbs, that when a certain clergyman asked him for a subscription toward a Band of Hope excursion, he sharply replied: "Not if you temperance people spend more money in abusing your neighbors than I get for my diocesan societies."

## English Village Life

(Continued from Sixth Page.)

cuts, with intervening stiles, across fields redolent with the scent of ripening grain, vocal with bird songs and gleaming here and there with the English affluence of wild flowers. Even the village police station is a beautiful place—at least to look at. Marvelous the passion of these slow-blooded Anglo-Saxons for decorative gardening! One sees this everywhere at railway stations and one sees it no less at village police stations. The police station in this village is a combination affair. The front room is the magistrates' court. When court is in session the officers wear white gloves and all the business is done on the same

high level of decorum. When court is not in session the table of justice is radiant with potted plants. Farther back in the residence of the district inspector whose dignity and comfort are both greatly enhanced by the certainty that after a few more years of not very exacting service he will retire, as his predecessors have done, and as all policemen and constables do over here, on a comfortable pension. Between the court and the residential part of this Hall of Justice are two cells with walls so clean and beds so inviting and all conveniences so perfectly sanitary that the wonder is they are seldom occupied. But it's the outside rather than inside that attracts you, after all. Here you find, in front and on either side and stretching far into the rear, those charming effects in ornamental shrubbery and tasteful flower beds for which the mind finds no counterpart save in Fairyland.

### Grinly Suggestive Name.

What would be called the village green if it were green and had not a more historic name, is called, as if in mockery of its flatness, the Hill. But the full name is Stocks Hill, grimly suggestive of the time, not so very long ago, when scolds and shrews and drunkards and other misdemeanants were exposed to public scorn, some of them in cages and some with their feet held tightly in the public stocks. But such relics of a barbarous past disgrace the village hill no longer. Its ordinary uses now are for a playground and once a year for the holding of a village feast. But when I was there at the flower show something else was afoot on Stocks Hill—a very modern thing, and one which shows how into all these English villages, with or without the consent of the village councils, modern improvements are being introduced.

Upon the complaint of a few property owners that good water was not so plentiful as it should be, the district council made inquiries and resolved upon a driven well for common use. The well will go down 240 feet and its cost will be about \$750, the same to be paid, of course, out of the local rates. The village council protested on various grounds, but it did no good. The larger, higher authority, having the power of parliamentary law behind it, is determined that no one hereafter shall complain of insufficient or insanitary water. So, merrily, during the flower show, the drill of progress continued to bore through the rock, and hereafter Stocks Hill, which in olden times was the place of public execution, will be the spot to which the village Racheles and their children will daily repair to quench their thirst.

HENRY TUCKLEY.

## Carpenter's Letter

(Continued from Seventh Page.)

the natives open the shells without watching them. The shells containing the pearls have sometimes a curious appearance by which those who are experienced can tell that they have pearls in them. Such shells are always laid aside for the proprietor or the foreman of the sloop to open and the foreman usually watches carefully the opening of all the shells.

Sometimes one oyster will contain a dozen small pearls and sometimes more. Such oysters are usually diseased and their shells rough. But still a perfectly healthy oyster may contain a fine, round pearl of large size, so that the divers do not believe that the pearls necessarily come from diseased oysters. One of the biggest pearls lately discovered sold for \$2,500, another brought \$5,000, and pearls worth \$100 are quite common. The fishing is done on the basis of the profit in the shells and the pearls are clear gain.

### Artificial Pearl Making.

The pearl oyster farm which was established on Friday Island was started by a company with a German scientist at its head. The bay was stocked with young oysters and the German was employed to put a little piece of glass or grain of sand inside the shell of each oyster, with the expectation that the oysters would throw out the secretions which form the pearls about these bits of glass and sand, coating them more and more until at last they became good-sized round pearls. The glass was tried first and after that the sand, but so far, I am told, the experiment has been an absolute failure.

And still it is said that some irritating substance is the cause of every pearl. A pearl cut in two, looked at through a strong lens, shows concentric layers like an onion and in the center is a round hole and sometimes in this center, it is said, a grain of sand. Jewelers frequently cut pearls in pieces and their experience is that there is always a hole in the center. It is supposed that the grain of sand irritates the oyster and that it exudes this carbonate of lime, coating it over and over until it becomes a smooth round ball which does not hurt it.

### Pearl Fishing in India.

The greatest pearl fisheries of the world are those of the Indian ocean, both about Ceylon and in the Persian gulf. Here vast quantities of pearls are found, the oysters being taken more for their pearls than for their shells. In one season as many as 11,000,000 were brought to the surface by fifty divers off the coast of Ceylon. This work was under the supervision of the Brit-

ish government, which received \$100,000 as its share of the profits. The divers got one-fourth of what they caught. The largest Ceylon pearls sell there for about \$200, but they bring five or six times that in Europe. At one time the government made nearly \$1,000,000 a year out of them, but the product has fallen off and it is now usually less than one-tenth that amount.

The pearl fisheries of the Bay of Bengal, of China and of the South seas are said to yield about \$1,000,000 a year, while those in the Persian gulf bring in more than \$1,000,000 annually.

I have seen them fishing for pearls in the Bay of Panama, and while there heard of a curious lawsuit between a ship owner and some men he had employed to clean the barnacles off the hull of his vessel. Among the barnacles, as the story goes, a pearl oyster was found, and in that oyster an opalescent globe worth \$10,000. The ship owner claimed the pearl, but the men refused to give it up, and hence the suit.

### Pearls of Great Price.

Today some of the finest pearls of the world go to China. There is a big demand for them among the mandarins there. Many go to India for sale to the rajahs, and a large number to Paris, whence they are re-exported.

Fine pearls are still of great value, but not so much so as they were in the past. In Roman times they were worth more than now. Julius Caesar once presented the mother of Marcus Brutus with a pearl valued at \$240,000. Cleopatra is said to have swallowed one worth \$300,000 and she had another equally valuable. Philip II of Spain received a present of a Panama pearl worth \$20,000 and a Spanish lady of Madrid owned one worth 30,000 ducats. During a visit to Constantinople I was shown the sultan's pearl collection. He has about a peck of pearls of different sizes, some as big as a pigeon's egg and some no larger than the head of a pin. He has quilts embroidered with pearls, saddle cloths decorated with them and a great number of mirrors with pearl-studded handles, which are probably used by the women of his harem.

FRANK G. CARPENTER.



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