

NET AT THE ALTAR TO PRAY

MANY CONVERTS ASSURED BY THE REVIVAL MEETINGS.

Evangelists Conduct Seven Services and Exhort Hundreds of Persons to Abandon Lives of Unrighteousness—Cooper Union Filled with Men and Women Eager to Hear the Tidings of Salvation—Striking Scene at the After Meeting in the Hall.

The evangelistic meetings in this city are taking on new strength daily. Yesterday there were seven meetings, two in the street and three in large public halls up town, and two at noonday down town. Besides, at least fifty churches are now holding evening meetings in their own edifices or uniting in union meetings in other church buildings. Meetings in the churches seem to spring up spontaneously.

The most remarkable part of the whole revival which is gathering such volume daily is that Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, Disciple, Reformed Dutch, Congregational, Zion, and all other evangelical believers gather on the same platform and stand elbow to elbow working for the cause of Christ, without ever a reference to differences of dogma. Denominational lines are put aside.

The outdoor meeting in Madison Square, in front of Dr. Parkhurst's church, yesterday morning attracted such a crowd of people, trucks, and carriages as almost to block up Madison Avenue. The mechanic stopped while on his route to toil, and the business man, hurrying along, the wealthy in carriages, the gambler, and the tramp all stopped at the sound of some familiar hymn which arose tuneful and melodious upon the March winds.

The Rev. Granville Hunt of the Antioch Baptist Church offered a prayer, and then addressed the crowd. "The day is at hand when the majesty of Jesus Christ is to be brought to you, my brother," was his cry. "Oh, come to Him to-day; make no delay, but come, because now is the time. You may never see the bright, God-given sunshine of another day."

Chaplain Frederick Rotzler of the First Battery, National Guard, followed Dr. Hunt. Looking around over the heads of the crowd, he saw many whom he had known in his rescue work in the missions of this city. He made an earnest appeal to them to turn to the Lord and seek salvation.

Leonard Weaver, the evangelist, followed with an earnest exhortation and invitation for all who would seek Christ. Hands went up in the crowd, and one woman sobbed aloud. She had stopped to see what caused the crowd to gather, and there heard that "Jesus of Nazareth Passeth By." The tidings were full of joy to her, and she cast all else aside and followed the preachers over to Association Hall, where, in the inquiry meeting later, she was found on her knees at the altar praying and weeping.

The outdoor meeting was closed with a fervent prayer by Evangelist Weaver.

The noon meeting in Association Hall was a large one and of unusual interest. It began by a song service, led by George C. Stebbins, the audience singing "Praise Him," "I Know Whom I Have Believed," and other hymns. The Rev. Robert McNichol of the Beekman Hill Methodist Episcopal Church offered prayer, after which the audience sang "I Looked to Jesus in My Sin."

"Now," said Dr. Dixon, "I want half-minute reports of the work done in the different churches. There has been a wonderful work going on in this city, and hundreds of souls have been brought to Christ. Let us tell, in a few words, what we know about the work. At the Thirty-fourth Street Reformed Church eight confessed Christ last night, and many others have risen for prayer."

The Rev. Edward J. Parker said: "At White Plains, where I have been laboring for the past week, we had the largest meeting last night of the series. We have had conversions every night."

The Rev. Thomas Needham said: "At the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church the work is progressing grandly."

Evangelist Leonard Weaver said: "I closed on Saturday night a series of meetings at West New-Brighton, Staten Island. In these meetings 400 stood up for prayer, and over 100 confessed conversion. In Seventy-sixth Street, where I am now working, 100 have been forward pleading for mercy."

The Rev. Samuel Alman, pastor of Emanuel Baptist Church, said: "In my church forty have been admitted, or are about to be, into fellowship with the church, and 140 have come forward for prayers."

The Rev. Robert McNichol of the Beekman Hill Methodist Church said: "Forty-nine have been received, and 270 have confessed conversion since we began our meetings."

The Rev. Granville Hunt of the Antioch Baptist Church said: "We have just started meetings in my church, and they are still small, but God is with us there. 'Mercy drops round us are,' falling, but showers of blessings we need."

The Rev. Dr. Wisner of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church said: "Since our meetings began we have 200 converts, and last night ten more arose for prayers."

Miss Olive Willson sang "Christ Is All in All to Me," after which the Rev. Samuel Alman of Emanuel Baptist Church offered prayer.

The Rev. Charles W. Millard, pastor of the Washington Square Methodist Episcopal Church, spoke, saying: "Ever since the beginning of these meetings a very convincing manifestation of the presence of God has been within me. I cannot remember in my experience, except when Mr. Moody was speaking in the Hippodrome, any instance when God's presence was more manifest in this city than now. I noticed last night at the close of the meeting, where God's divinely baptized messenger spoke, that there was not the customary rush for the doors. It seemed as if God's very presence had surrounded the people, and they wanted to linger in it."

Mr. Millard then spoke from First Corinthians, ii, 14: "The natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him."

He said that the natural man was not always the low, sensual type of man, but Paul was rather speaking of the highly-educated and intellectual type of man.

He also said that the knowledge of God was never brought out by any process of reasoning, but that spiritual truth always came by a revelation from God.

After Mr. Millard had ceased speaking Mrs. Isabelle Sparks Kress, Miss Olive Willson, and George C. Stebbins sang a trio; "Come Unto Me and I Will Give You Rest."

An after meeting was held, and all who were seeking after Christ were invited to come forward. Several responded, and as the workers gathered about them and sang sacred songs and lifted their voices in prayer, the scene was most impressive.

At 3 P. M. a large crowd had gathered in Astor Place at the foot of the Cox Statue, where for half an hour Clark Willson, William H. Orpen, Frank Melsinger, and Leonard Weaver spoke. A large number raised their hands for prayer and followed the speakers into the meeting in the large hall of Cooper Union.

In Cooper Union every seat was filled, except a few on the outer ends of the first and last sections. On the platform were the large choir organized by George C. Stebbins and the pastors of many of the city churches and the evangelists. Among them were the Rev. H. S. Miller, the Rev. Granville Hunt, the Rev. George Tompkins, the Rev. C. T. Young, the Rev. P. S. Hulbert, the Rev. Dr. Harsh, the Rev. Ezra Tinker, the Rev. J. T. Johnston of Boston, the Rev. J. G. Patterson, the Rev. A. C. Bowditch, the Rev. Samuel Alman, the Rev. A. C. Dixon, the Rev. S. V. Robinson, the Rev. Daniel Toy, the Rev. Dr. Campbell, and Evangelist "Tom" Roberts.

The meeting began with a song service, conducted by George C. Stebbins. The choir and audience—there must have been between 4,000 and 5,000 people—sang "I Will Sing the Wonderful Story," while the three Parks sisters furnished the instrumental music. The opening prayer was delivered by "Tom" Roberts, the evangelist, who formerly was known as a most daring and successful jockey.

After the opening prayer Mrs. Isabelle Sparks Kress sang "Waiting for the Promise of the Father," Dr. Dixon made a short prayer, and the Rev. Thomas Needham gave a short Bible reading from the sixth chapter of Isaiah. Mrs. Whittemore, the missionary of the slums, and the friend of the poor, was then introduced. She was dressed in a close-fitting garment of black, and as she spoke her face flushed with ani-

mation, and her eyes grew more and more expressive and eloquent as she went deeper into her subject. She said:

"We sang a few minutes ago: 'Faith is the Victory; Hallelujah.' It resounded in my heart and I re-echoed hallelujah. Faith is the victory, and I believe faith is given us of Christ, and without Him there is no victory. Then let us ask Him to fill us this afternoon, dear friends, with that faith which passeth all understanding. While I stand here a vivid picture of faith comes to me from the third chapter of Acts.

"We read in this chapter of that poor man who was carried day after day to the gate of the Temple which is called Beautiful. He lay there when Peter and John came along, and they looked down and saw him. He was only a beggar, yet we are in the same state to-day as that beggar who looked up to Peter and John and exposed his needs. Therefore, let us expose our needs to Christ and ask Him to fill us with His love and grace.

"The poor man lifted up his eyes and voice to Peter and John, and asked for alms. Oh, how are we answering the pleas of those who lift their voices to us?"

"Peter and John stood and looked at that poor man and their hearts filled with pity and love. They knew his needs. Are we in that position to-day? You who are so richly blessed, do you remember those who are in sore need?"

"Some of these beggars need to be ferreted out, and let us not fear, for God's sake, to go down to the meanest depths or up to the greatest heights to find those who beg for the love of Jesus Christ.

"When Peter and John looked at the beggar their hearts were filled with love, and as he solicited them to give him, perhaps a coin, how lovingly they answered: 'Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have give I thee. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.' Then Peter stretched forth his hand and lifted up the man. He showed before the people what the despised name of Jesus could do for those who had faith.

"Last Summer, in one of our crowded meetings, I saw a poor man come in and take a seat near the door. His hair, cut close to the head, showed his bleared eyes and poor, bruised face off terribly. When he came in I uttered a prayer for him, and oh! such a prayer went up from his heart. I was rewarded by seeing him raise his hand for prayer. It was a dirty hand, but it was held up, and three or four of us gathered about him and prayed.

"Oh!" he said, the tears dropping from his eyes, 'I never had any one pray for me before.'

"Well, now, you just stay here with me after the others are gone and pray for yourself," I said to him.

"Oh!" he answered, 'you don't know what a bad man I am, what a black-hearted sinner I am!'

"Never mind, I told him. 'Don't say a word now. Jesus came to save sinners and He can save to the uttermost, and He has said that those who come to Him in faith, believing, He would in no wise cast out. We are all great sinners.'

"What! you a sinner? Oh! no. You have never been a sinner like me. Why, I was the worst man in New-London," he answered.

"Then he put his hands together and said: 'I'll pray now,' and such a prayer! He said: 'O God! you have mother up there in heaven, you have brother Jacob up there, and I want to come, too.'

"When he made this prayer it may have amused some enough to cause them to smile, but in my heart I uttered a loud hallelujah. Then a new look came into his eyes, a look of hope, and a new life begun for that man.

"If we expect to serve our Saviour, we must empty our hands of all self. We must give up all to serve Him. Are you ready to do this?"

"I remember a story of a little boy who lived in a town in Massachusetts, who was very inquisitive. He never saw anything that he did not inquire about. He was always asking questions. It is not necessary to picture this child more graphically, as you all know him.

"Well, one day this little boy went into the parlor, and on the other side of the room he saw something that attracted his attention. It was a valuable vase. He went straight to it, and, after examining it, he looked into it and saw something he wanted. Down he ran his little arm into it, and, grasping the object, he drew it out until near the mouth, when he closed his little fist and he was fast.

"Then he screwed and wiggled it around, but the hand wouldn't come out, and then he began to cry. His mother heard him and went to see what the trouble was. She asked him, saying: 'What is the matter?'

"Oh, mamma, I can't get my hand out," he said.

"Well, put your arm way down, like it was before, open your hand out, and then it will come out," she said.

"But I don't want to!" he cried.

"Why not?" asked the mother.

"Because there's a penny in it," he said.

"There is the trouble. We do not want to let go of our own selfish desires, but we must if we wish to serve the Master.

"I would that our faith might be as that of a little child. Not long ago my little baby boy came to me, and, throwing his arms about my neck, kissed me, and said: 'Oh, mamma, won't you buy me a drum?'

"Now, of all the things I detested at that time was a drum, so I put him off by saying: 'Not now, darling.'

"I did not think any more about it until the next day, when he came to me, and, hugging me tighter and kissing me many more times, said: 'Oh, mamma, do buy me a drum.'

"Then I thought that I might be depriving him of something he really wished for, and I asked: 'Does my darling want a drum so very much?'

"At that his eyes brightened, and he said: 'Oh, yes, so very much.'

"Well, ask Jesus about it," I said. Then he put up his little hands, and said: 'Oh, Jesus, send me a drum, or mamma some money to buy me one.'

"The next morning when I awoke there he stood by the bedside, and said: 'Oh, mamma, let me take your keys and bring up your letters; perhaps Jesus has sent some money in one of them to buy me a drum.' There was no money in any of the letters, and the little fellow stood beside me while I opened them, and said not a word. Two days later I made up my mind to get him not only one, but two drums, and was about purchasing them when a lady friend stopped me and said: 'I will pay for them.' So you see Jesus sent the money after all.

"They were sent home, and the little fellow opened the package, and I said: 'Darling, now that Jesus has sent you two drums, what will you do with them?'

"Oh," he said, 'I will give one to brother.'

"And now, although I am glad there is a big hole in both of the drums, I will never hear the sound of a drum again but my heart will go out to the faith of a little child."

Mrs. Whittemore then paid a tribute to Delia Lockwood, the girl who was rescued from the slums, and who, in eleven months before her death, converted over 100 people.

The Weeden Quartet sang "Knocking, Knocking, Who Is There?"

The Rev. A. C. Dixon made an impassioned address about people rescuing those who never go to church. "The love of Jesus Christ will solve all the problems of life, so start out now and work for the Lord. I want more power. I want to be imbued with more power to save men, rich men and poor men. Fifth Avenue needs saving just as much as Mulberry Bend. All who will sanctify your lives now to the saving of souls for Christ, please arise."

It seemed as if the whole vast audience arose.

"Now, those who are trusting Christ, but are not connected with any Christian church, arise!" said he.

Many more arose.

"How many in this house will accept Christ to-day?" asked Dr. Dixon. Then he said: "All be seated but those who wish to accept Christ now, this moment."

About 100 people either remained on their feet or arose.

"We are going to hold an after meeting, which Col. Evans will conduct, and while the choir sings, 'Throw Out the Life Lines,' all who desire to retire, please go," said Dr. Dixon.

The choir sang, and about half the audience retired. Then at the invitation to come forward, first came two women with the marks of dissipation on their faces. Then there came a young man, who said he had been a thief. A drunkard, well dressed, but with the marks of excess upon his features, came forward. Soon the rail about the platform was filled with at least fifty weeping inquirers. A Salvation Army girl brought up a shamefaced young man, who soon wept under her tearful pleading. There were several Hebrews among the suppliants.

As all knelt there, the homeless vagabond elbow to elbow with well-dressed men, women of the street, and with the workers who were gathered about them, the voices of Leonard Weaver, Col. Evans, and others arose in prayer. The company was dismissed with kind words of encouragement. It was a most extraordinary scene, and one that has not been witnessed before during the progress of the revival.

There was a large gathering last evening at the services in the Thirty-fourth Street Reformed Church. Besides the Rev. A. C. Dixon, who delivered a stirring address, there were present on the platform the Rev. Dr. Stryker, the pastor of the church, the Rev. Dr. Junor of the DeWitt Memorial Reformed Church, the Rev. Dr. Lampe of Christ Presbyterian Church, and the Rev. E. S. Holloway of the West Thirty-third Street Baptist Church.

The Rev. Dr. Junor opened the services with prayer, and then George C. Stebbins sang the hymn, "There Is a Green Hill Far Away."

Dr. Dixon took for his text the fifteenth verse of the last chapter of First Chronicles, "Our days on the earth are as shadows, and there is none abideth." He said the days of the wicked are shadowed in gloom. The wicked are enveloped in darkness and they walk in the gloomy shadows of sin, the shadows that poison and that kill. He likened the wicked to the upas tree. "Every man that does not believe in God," he said,

"is a walking upas tree. He poisons all he comes in contact with, even those for whose life he would give his own."

The Speaker dwelt upon the need of preparation for death. "There was once a King," he said, "who gave his court jester a gold-headed staff to be given to the greatest fool he met. When the King was dying the jester was present and asked him if he was prepared to die. The King replied in the negative. 'How long have you known that you would have to die?' asked the jester. 'Oh! for a long time,' the King replied. 'And you have made no preparations?' asked the jester, who handed the gold-headed staff to the King as the biggest fool he had ever met.

"The great apostle of infidelity said recently that he wished all men might pass away as quietly and peacefully as the twilight passes into night. That's all the infidel has to offer. The Christian hopes that his passing away may be as the darkness grows into the dawn, the dawn of the bright and glorious morning of eternity.

"Once, in Baltimore, I went to call upon a dying man. He was a stalwart, horny-handed laborer. The doctor was at his bedside. I knew him. He was an infidel and scoffed at religion. The doctor said to the dying man, 'There is no hope for you.' The man said, 'You've done all you can for me, now just turn me over to the Lord, and all will be well with me.' That was a striking exemplification of the true faith. Put your trust in Jesus and all will be well with you."

At the close of his address, Dr. Dixon asked: "How many of you present are members of the church and trust in Jesus?" Two-thirds of the congregation arose.

Then Dr. Dixon asked those to rise "who were not members of the church, but who put their trust in Jesus." Only a few remained seated.

The meetings for to-day will be: At 11:15, Madison Square, open-air meeting; Association Hall, at noon, the Rev. F. C. Iglehart, speaker; Metropolitan Hall, Fourteenth Street; Old John Street Methodist Church, 113 Fulton Street, where Mrs. Isabelle Sparks Kress will sing and the Rev. Thomas Needham speaks. At 3 P. M., open-air meeting at the Cox Statue, Astor Place, and at 3:30 P. M., in the large hall of Cooper Union. "Tom" Roberts, the converted horse jockey, will speak at the Cooper Union meeting, and perhaps the Rev. Henry Marvin Wharton, who has been summoned to return to New-York. The music will be furnished by a choir of selected voices, conducted by Prof. George C. Stebbins, and assisted by the Parks sisters, the Weeden Lady Sextet, Mr. Bjorksten, the Swedish tenor; Prof. Weeden, Phillip Phillips, Jr., Col. Evans, and others. The usual meetings will take place in the churches at night, programmes of which can be had at any of the day meetings.