

50 Articles of War

GEORGE SCOTT RAILTON

SELF HELP

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The past month has been one of great blessing to us throughout the Mission, and we think the reports from our stations will satisfy our readers. From all quarters, we hear day by day, of sinners turning to God; wherever we are laboring, the might of God is with us, and the glorious work of salvation is going on.

But how does it grieve us to reflect, that this work might be increased a thousand fold if we had funds sufficient to enable us to take up commodious places for worship at all our stations. How marvelously God has increased our congregations, and gathered in the outcasts at Poplar, since the opening of the new hall! There is every reason to believe, that the same results would follow at every station, if we could only provide accommodation for the thousands who are wandering about without God, and without hope.

We can no longer sit still with this fact staring us in the face. The voice of God calls us to rise, and use every means in our power to meet Him in His glorious readiness to help us. To rest hopelessly amidst our painfully limited opportunities would be to show the basest ingratitude to Him, who appears so powerfully amongst us in our weakness.

The cry of thousands of precious souls going downward to destruction comes up with a mighty wail, which ought to pierce our hearts. We cannot, we must not, we dare not, we will not allow the work of God to stand still, for want of funds.

We can hardly choose stations for special mention, so general is the complaint that reaches us that small and unsuitable places are cramping and hindering the work. At Tunbridge Wells, where God has been turning the very poorest and vilest of the population by scores from darkness to light, our people have to worship in a wooden shed, while sand and small stones are thrown down amongst them through the chinks, and while the wretched drunkards without batter the doors and gates. At Shoreditch and Bethnal Green, where we have



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large bands of converted men and women longing to spend all their time in the Master's service, it is impossible to induce the large crowds, who listen to their words in the open-air, to follow them into the miserable little rooms in which the services are held. At Globe Road, the work must have been given up altogether, had not one of our people opened his house to us, and now the small front room and passage are crammed to excess, while those who would gladly enter are forced to stand without.

What is to be done? Day after day, hearts burdened with the sight of the multitude wandering like sheep without a shepherd have cried to God for help to provide larger and better preaching places. We do not doubt that our prayers have been heard and answered. Our new Halls at Croyden, Canning Town, and Poplar, witness to the faithfulness of our God, and encourage us to continue to agonize in prayer. But we must do more.

WE MUST GIVE MORE LIBERALLY

We rejoice as we reflect that the very poorest of those who have been brought to God in the Mission have been disposed to contribute largely out of their poverty to sustain and extend the work; but can we not exercise still more self-denial, and do still more to help ourselves?

We believe that many persons who now think they are giving liberally would be surprised at the amount of money they could give if they began to plan and calculate. Some little indulgence which seems to be almost unworthy of notice might be given up, and the money spent in this way devoted to God. The apostolic plan of laying by in store on the first day of every week, followed regularly by even the poorest of working people, would secure an astonishing total of revenue for the kingdom of Christ. Let us awake to the awful necessity of the hour. It may be that we have a very short time left us in which to labor for the masses of the ungodly around us. It may be that the circumstances of commercial prosperity in which our country just now rejoices may soon be changed for a season of the bitterest distress even the East of London has ever known. Let us seize the passing opportunity, and give every penny we can to extend the glorious enterprise of saving souls. But when we have all done our utmost, the total will, we know, be dreadfully inadequate to meet the wants that so heavily press upon us.



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WE MUST COLLECT MORE DILLIGENTLY

There are many, both amongst the poor and the rich, living in the neighborhood of our Halls, who, we feel sure, could not fail to be touched by the simple story of blessing and of need we have to tell, "We speak the things we know, and testify that we have seen." We cannot be ashamed to tell the facts with which we are personally acquainted. Our Halls are places where God blesses our souls and saves poor sinners week after week. Let us tell the Christians who live within our reach what is being done, praying that God may incline them to help their poor brethren in this work amongst the lowly and the outcast. Who knows how many there are, near and far, who would be glad to aid us if we could only put before them the astounding facts of the work of God amongst us; facts which make little impression upon us, because we have become so accustomed to them. To any who may be disposed specially to exert themselves in the matter, we commend the account of our work at Turnbridge Wells, just published, as a story highly calculated to awaken in the mind of a stranger a deep interest in our work. While we go to press, a collecting box is brought to us from the death room of a poor foreign servant girl, who was converted at one of our Whitechapel services a very short time ago. Upon opening the box, the very large number of coins within it prove that, day by day, this dear servant of Jesus, known to scarcely anyone, had remembered the perishing world, and had contributed and collected money to proclaim to them a loving Savior. Her service on earth has been short. She is gone to Him who sees in secret, and who is rewarding her openly. Shall we not follow her example?