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JOHN RANDOLPH—THE MAN AND HIS FAITH.

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On June 3, 1773, near the point where the waters of the Appomattox blend with those of the James, was born one of the most remarkable men America has produced. "John Randolph, of Roanoke," the world has elected to call him, and so indeed he often wrote himself in his later years. But as a matter of fact he did not begin to reside at the "Roanoke" plantation in Charlotte County until he was nearly forty years of age. "Cawsons" was his birthplace, and "Matoax," opposite Petersburg, the home of his childhood. The perils resulting from Arnold's invasion compelled his mother to flee westward with her young children and to take up her residence at "Bizarre." This still prosperous plantation, charmingly situated on the crest of a hill overlooking the town of Farmville, was the home of John Randolph until long after he had achieved a fame as statesman and orator that reached beyond the seas. Here he lived in the midst of a people whom he loved best of all Virginians, and whom he proudly described on the floor of Congress as "such constituents as no man ever had." They repaid his admiration with a loyal and enthusiastic devotion that never failed or faltered throughout a long and stormy public career.

Mr. Randolph's life covers the most picturesque period of American history, and in those lofty and momentous struggles that marked the first four decades of the life of the Republic, he played a conspicuous and impressive part. There were

MISSIONARY

THE UNIQUE POSITION OF THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE MISSIONARY ENTERPRISE.

CHAS. H. PRATT.

The fascinating enterprise of missions presents itself under new aspects to each succeeding generation. Once it was only the over-excitabile longhaired man and shorthaired woman that was supposed to be interested in the work. Now it is the exceptional man and the more exceptional woman, who call themselves by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ who are bold enough to say that they are not interested in missions.

Once our thought of our task was that the foreign missionary should personally preach the Gospel to every man in the world. To-day our thought is shifting to the planting of Christianity deep in the life of every nation and when it becomes indigenous and self-propagating then the major part of our work is done.

A generation ago we were asking for whatever we could get for missions, knowing it was hopeless to think of getting anywhere near what was needed. To-day the thought of all christendom is centering itself on questions like these—What are the forces needed to compass the world's evangelization? What are the real barriers to the progress of Christianity? Are they primarily in the non-Christian lands; or in the unchristian withholding by those who have the knowledge of Christ? Is it possible for us to send out the missionaries, equip them for their work and sustain them in it until they complete the part of it man must do?

These questions are being seriously asked by men in every denomination. They mark a new era in the enterprise upon which the ages wait. There are indications in more than one field that we have come to the hour and the place which will

separate past missionary history from that which will from this time forth "crowd the hours of setting sun."

The completion of the campaign to equip the Mission of the Southern Presbyterian Church in Korea is a matter of much more than ordinary importance. More significant than either the number of missionaries or the amount of money involved and transportation, would indicate.

In the first place these are the first missionaries sent out on a financially sound basis. The four or five hundred dollars paid in the past for a female and the six hundred dollars for a male missionary did not begin to meet the expense to the committee of these missionaries. Here has been the prolific cause of debt. So that, at the same time the General Assembly was asked to instruct the committee to send out the final quota of workers for Korea it was also asked to raise the amount upon which, either a man or a woman would be assigned to a church or individual, to one thousand dollars per year. And that over and above regular pledges. It is more notable then that the Church has risen to this work with such joy and a spirit of sane enthusiasm.

In the second place this Korea incident is a matter of more than passing importance in that this is the first of our missions to be equipped with both the material and the life necessary to make that equipment effective. More than one man has felt like ancient Simeon, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles." It has seemed as the foregleam of the promised day of redemption for all the race that draweth nigh. There has been no crying aloud during the few weeks while workers and funds have been sought. No newspapers have heralded it or begged for it. Quietly, and in constant confidence in Him who began and who leads the Missionary Enterprise, has the work been done.

Yet one other significant thing in this Korea matter, is the prayer it is calling forth. Never before have so many entered the secret place to become intercessory foreign missionaries. By prayer the workers have been found. By prayer the churches

and individuals have been located that God has honored with the privilege of supporting them. By prayer each worker goes to the field backed by a large company that will keep them before the face of Him with Whom they have to do. And in the holy quiet of prayer will they carry to completion their work.

Following close on the heels of the campaign for Korea came the suggestion from the Spirit of God to do something for Africa. Immediately after Mr. Martin landed in this country a letter was addressed him suggesting that we ought to get under way a campaign for Africa. At that time little had been done in securing the new missionaries for Korea or their supporters. But unless we be sheer fatalists we cannot lay it in the will of God that Africa has not been long ago provided for. Therefore any advance in her behalf was the evident leading of the Spirit of God. Very quietly went forward the work of finding those whom the Spirit had called to work of healing the world's open sore. The days of the convention in Chattanooga drew toward a close. When from the audience the men were called for Africa, they came, thirty save one, and stood before the great multitude. Instantly and without premeditation the vast audience praised God with a mighty shout. Then as the Holy Ghost lifted the veil and men saw the multitudes in Africa's night to whom these shall bear the tidings they wept for joy and then burst into "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." That was the beginning of the end for Africa. For within two years the full quota of fifty missionaries is to be secured and kept at that until "the thing is done."

Now these two events mark the rise of a tide that we do well to note. They mark the evident suggestion of the Great Spirit of missions. Who is the Holy Spirit, that girded in His might, we march out to man all our other missions and keep them manned, "until the thing is done," or the King returns.

But here and there a voice is heard crying, "Halt." One pastor said, "Do not try to get any of my men to the convention, you are carrying the Church off on missions." Others are saying that we have done enough now and should hold the work where it is rather than try to advance it any farther. Personally I cannot sympathize with such an attitude. In any army when an

officer mutinies against the commands of the general he is shot. We, however, are following a Leader of a different spirit. I do believe that to halt or to do anything except press steadily and quietly until we finish the task is treason to the captain general. I believe it has been the duty of every generation of Christians that has lived since our Lord went away to undertake to carry the Gospel to the whole race. Again let it be said that unless we be sheer fatalists we cannot lay it in the Will of God that the world has not been evangelized. Surely if that be true of the past it is much more true of the present generation. Unbelief, and that alone is the great barrier to the immediate occupation of all our fields. I believe we ought immediately to set about the full occupation of them all, both in equipment and life and maintain them at full strength until the work is accomplished.

There has never been a generation that could so easily reach the world as ours. The whole world lies open to our hand to-day as to no past generation. The facilities for communication are better to-day than in any past age. The minds of all the non-Christian races are open to the message of Christianity as at no past time. What is of greater importance as indicating our duty is the very evident truth that this openmindedness and plasticity of the non-Christian races will not last long. Unless we be willing to see them set in agnostic or atheistic molds we must give them the Gospel now.

There can be no question that the next ten years will largely settle as to what the next hundred are to mean for the progress of Christianity. Someone has said that there may have been in single fields a crisis equal to the present. But there has never been such a synchronizing of crises. It cannot be other than the evident leading of the Spirit of God as He asks us to follow to the immediate occupation of our whole world field.

No one who has even a fair grasp of the situation will deny that there is means abundant for the work. A million dollars per year can be as easily given by the Southern Presbyterian Church as the half million now given. It lies within the power of pastors who are now in charge of churches to lead enough of their people to give to furnish all the means necessary. I know whereof I speak. Nothing like one-third of the membership

of the Church is now giving anything for this greatest work in the Church; or in the world.

The time will never come when all the membership will give. Because the time will never come when the membership will be composed entirely of regenerate men and women. But if the pastors now living will do their duty by the deacons and Missionary Committee and see that a thorough canvass is made to secure a subscription of any size whatever from just as many as will give, there will be enough of funds to carry to completion the enterprise. For more men and women love Christ to-day and love Him more intelligently and with greater devotion to His plans for the field, than ever before in the history of the world. They lack leadership. Both in the pastorate and eldership and diaconate. I am persuaded that a response clear out of proportion to anything yet seen would be made if pastors would call on their people for large things and then set them an example in large giving in proportion to income and then in spite of "peculiar conditions" and everything that opposes or exalts itself against the work of God, see that they are faced with the duty of saying what they will give week by week for the evangelization of this world. Men are ready for it. More men are actively at work to-day to get their men in line with this sort of a program than in any previous period. I do not know a church where the pastor leads in generous giving where men are not catching his sense of proportion and falling in love with Jesus Christ and His work.

If we were to set aside the accomplishment of the whole task, it would call more men into activity than any other possible thing. We who are responsible for what the Church undertakes may have doubt about the possibility of fully occupying our world field, but the average church member does not doubt we can. Nothing would so make them think we mean business as to see us set seriously about the immediate and adequate occupation of our world field. Nothing would so convince the multitudes outside the church that the church was undertaking a worth-while-work as to see us undertake the whole task for which we have acknowledged responsibility before the world. I tremble as I think what its influence might be upon the world

at large. To see one denomination in full occupation of its field in the non-Christian world would demonstrate before the other churches of christendom of that to which we have set our faces. It would, in all probability, become for other Christian bodies a great battle cry until they too should do the same thing. God may have called us to this. So far as my knowledge goes, with rather exceptional opportunities for observing both in the North and South, we are the most missionary church on the North American continent. We have always responded to every appeal that has ever been made and we have only begun to feel our strength. Personally, I should rather see our little Benjamin go down in history as the one that led the Church of Christ to the evangelization conquest of the world, than to see it do any other thing. For that is the one greatest thing to be done. The great body of Christian doctrine has been truly set forth. The revelation of God is full and complete. It remains for two-thirds of the race to have told to them the story of God in Christ.

I cannot find myself agreeing with what one has said that we are glorifying unduly the might of faith. It is only unbelief and want of faith that is now keeping the nations from the knowledge of Christ. Naked faith and that alone will call out the workers, secure their support and bring to completion the work—if only we have faith.

Does not the fact that the Church has responded with such apparent joy to calls for Korea and Africa, and that at twice the former cost of the support of a man and wife, indicate a willingness to go right forward until we man all our fields in the same way? There is a plain desire to undertake this work that we may well heed. The men of larger means as well as the rank and file seem to know that this is no ordinary time to which we have come. That God's clock is striking and that we must set about our work with a larger faith and a more resolute devotion to Him who embodies in His own life the whole missionary enterprise. Nor are we depending on an arm of flesh to carry to completion the work. It is the Holy Spirit—all sufficient Leader of the Missionary Enterprise on whom we depend and on whose empowering we confidently wait.

There is yet one other thing besides the preparedness of the

world for the Gospel and our ability to finance the undertaking and the plain leading of the Holy Ghost inclining men to think in a larger way than in any past time; that would indicate that the time has at length come when we should begin the full occupation of our world field. That fact is the offering of life to man the fields. There has been no noise upon the housetops. Yet the twenty-five men and women for Korea has been found, about an equal number for Africa, yet the source of supply seems untouched. Within the past few days at least four of as finely equipped men and women as could be desired, have begged to be allowed to go to Korea. One said, "At first I said must I be a missionary, now its may I go to Korea?"

We are having to choose from the number of those who have offered for Africa, for there are more than are now asked for. Two go at their own charges. The choicest man of one of the greatest technical schools in this country has just offered. He has turned down offers that most men covet and now desires to pay the salary of one of the professors in the school to enter the work with him.

In the highest grade college for women in the South, only a few days ago when the call for life was sounded some twenty-five or more of the very pick of the institute asked to talk the matter over with a view to going to the field. One after another they are deciding to go. The number of laymen who are offering and the larger number who are willing to go if the call be put upon them is clear beyond anything ever seen before.

From whatever angle we may view it God is leading unmistakably to the immediate and full occupation of our world field.

In the face of twenty millions of men and women and little children without Him and before the face of Jesus Christ "henceforth expecting" can we endure it unless we join with all those who love Him and long for His return to set about now the giving of His message to all those for whom He died? Which?

"They turned back and tempted God and limited the holy one of Israel."—Psalm 78:41.

Go ye into all the world.—Jesus.

We are well able to possess it.—Joshua.