

All during the morning I pondered over this engagement and wondered why a man of such prominence and ability should wish to have a conference with me. He was a very prominent person in legal circles and held a political position of much power. I had often wondered about his class, as to whether Christ was known there and whether the members heard the gospel. The daily newspapers often carried stories concerning the class and their activities among the poor and the crippled and in civic improvement enterprises. The class gave liberally to needy families at Christmas time and in the summer season sponsored a camp for boys and another for girls.

I wondered whether my new friend would like counsel and advice concerning this social service work, or whether he might wish to talk with me about the interests of some friend who perhaps was in difficulty with the law. Never having had personal contact with Mr. Harris, I was quite in the dark concerning the desire for this meeting.

At 12:15 I met Mr. Harris at the Savoy Lunch Room as appointed. He knew me at once and made himself known to me, for he had been in some of my services without identifying himself. We were soon seated together at a table for two in this beautiful, colonial restaurant and proceeded to order the meal. We conversed together about various local and national matters of public interest while waiting for the meal to be served. After the waitress had placed the food before us and we had begun to partake of it, I said to my friend, "Mr. Harris, what was on your mind when you invited me to have this lunch with you? Do you have some problem that I may confer with you about? Do you have any burden on your heart that I might share with you? Do feel quite free to tell me anything you wish, for I shall regard our conversation as confidential."

This invitation seemed to relieve the heart of Mr. Harris so that he felt free to tell me the real cause for our conference. He did not reply immediately but seemed a bit confused as to just how and where to begin his conversation. I waited

quietly for him to answer. "Do you know the work in which I am engaged?" he asked.

I replied, "Not exactly, Mr. Harris. I do know your official position in the city, and I have read in the paper of your activities at the Barnard Church where you have built up such a large Bible class. I have no direct information about you or your faith, and I only know what I have read. I should like very much to have you tell me something about yourself, if it fits in with your desire at the present time."

Mr. Harris was not eating his meal as though he enjoyed it. He seemed to be only tasting the various foods without much interest or appetite. His mind was evidently on things that were more important, and his interests were deeper than the satisfying of his physical hunger. He began his story quietly and earnestly. "For many years I have been practicing law in this city, as you perhaps know. My ability has been recognized, and for that reason I have received a vote of confidence from the public which placed me in my present excellent position. During this time I have felt the desire for religion in my life. Being naturally a leader of men, I started this Bible class at the Barnard Church with the thought of increasing my own religious conceptions and also of bringing into Christianity a lot of men who would be more attracted by businessmen than they would by a preacher. I found some good singers among the men that came and some good, enthusiastic workers. We have put on 'PEP' meetings and 'PEP' songs to work up the enthusiasm. We appointed team captains to increase the attendance. We offered prizes for the largest attendance by sections, and also individual rewards for those who would bring the largest number of men at one meeting or during the course of the month.

"The scheme has worked splendidly as you know. We have one of the largest classes in the Valley, and the fellows certainly do take an interest in every opportunity for doing good that is presented to them."

Mr. Harris had told the truth about this group of men. They were enthusiastic about the class and about their various administrations of help where opportunity offered. They had