

SEE THE GLORY

by

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CHAPTER FIVE

ALL THINGS BECOME NEW

Adelaide's new life in Christ began to be manifest to others at once.

She did not, however, swing to an austere and ascetic extreme. The social contacts afforded by Epworth Club, the young people's group at Epworth Church, thoroughly appealed to her. How she enjoyed the wholesome fun and satisfying fellowship! Her popularity as a member of that organization soon brought her the office of president of the society. This responsibility she carried through her last two years at the University. At the end of this time she wrote characteristically the following paragraph in the Score Board, weekly publication of Epworth Club:

Does the road wind uphill all the way?
Yes, to the very end.
Will the day's journey take the whole long day?
From morn to night, my friend.

As I read these words by Christina Rossetti, copied from the preface of a book entitled *Ambassadors for Christ* I thought with a decidedly humbled spirit, what supreme faith our Lord must have in even the weakest of His children that He will entrust us with a task that demands our all, if we are to completely fulfill the obligations involved. And yet, He has "no other plan."

The outgoing officers of Epworth Club lay down the duties of our offices, grateful for the opportunity for service which has been ours, and praying that divine strength and guidance may be given those incoming officers who are now privileged to take over new responsibilities on the uphill road of Christian service.

In the Score Board for the same year was an account of a young people's rally in Alameda which bore abundant fruit for Christ:

The theme, "Companionship with Christ," was presented in the testimonies of Adelaide Locher, Helen Kettenbach and Chilton McPheeters. Each told of his conversion and joyful experience in Christ. As the call was made to those who were not satisfied with their lives to come to the altar, dozens of young people came forward, receiving Christ into their hearts and taking Him as Master of their lives.

The young people testified to the peace of Christ in their hearts. As person after person rose to his feet, confessing sin and turning to God, the very power of the Spirit could be felt in the room. Several accepted Christ for the first time and stated that they were leaving the world behind to follow Him wherever He should lead.

During those same years of leadership at Epworth Church, Adelaide roomed with Wilma at Epworth Hall. Wilma recalls that, somewhere along in that period, Adelaide began speaking of China. She always read a portion of *The Life of Hudson Taylor* along with her *Daily Light* for her devotions. Her prayer list was “miles” long, and she nearly always knelt for prayer.

As Adelaide’s health was not too good, Wilma used to beg her to lie comfortably and warmly in bed as she prayed; but she never did, in spite of the fact that the room was usually cold by the time the girls finished studying and were preparing to retire. Adelaide’s attitude was not that of one who would claim spiritual merit for length or effort spent in private prayer. Her heart reached out to others in yearning that they might receive rich blessing in Christ, and she set herself a prayer program that she did not permit to lapse through carelessness or neglect.

“That China was always on her heart, even during these students years, I very well recall,” writes Wilma.

“One morning as we were dressing she said: Willie, I dreamed last night I was being married to (mentioning one of the boys in Epworth Club), and as the ceremony progressed, I was suddenly horrified to realize that I was being married, and now would never get to China!”

How much of Adelaide’s remarkable growth in the Christian life was due to the vigilance of friends who were strong in faith and helped her to become established is a question impossible to answer, Adelaide, however, often spoke of “Dotto” (Saxton) and “Willie” (Mitchell). She also treasured in memory the many precious times she spent in the little office of the church club rooms with Grace Arnold, who was the Student Counselor of Epworth Methodist Church. There, “Gracious,” as the students affectionately nicknamed her, conducted an inconspicuous but vitally important spiritual clinic. These consultations were times when with Bible study, prayer and loving advice, the older woman nurtured the faith of the younger ones who confided in her.

As Adelaide grew in her Christian life, her dance frocks were laid aside; she explained simply, “I’ll have no more need of them.”

In her innocent relation to the usual social life of college, she had seen enough to recognize its emptiness, even if she had not tasted all of its subtle temptations. Her new affection for the Lord Jesus Christ had expelled her former love for the world of gaiety, where Christ was nudged into an inferior place, ignored, or even shamefully despised.

In exchanging frivolity for genuine joy and rest of heart, she was conscious of no loss. For her, this was deemed pure gain, “**Be not conformed to this world**” was a scriptural admonition she obeyed in a practical way.

Did she then become so engrossed in the Christian life that she grew careless about her personal appearance? Not Adelaide Locher!

Her deft hands still quickly fashioned pretty and well-fitting things. At sales, her searching eyes spotted value in attractive materials and accessories. Her good taste selected suitable styles and becoming colors. Crisp and meticulously clean, she refused to be seen in a wrinkled thing and pressed everything in her closet every week. “If there is anything hard for me to overcome, it is my care of how things look,” she once protested.

To discerning Christian friends who watched Adelaide, her growth as a Christian seemed ever to be increasing her personal attractiveness and strengthening her influence upon the young people about her.

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