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BETHEL COMPANION

VOL. XXVIII. ROCK ISLAND, ILL., AND CHICAGO, ILL.

No. 6

THE VETERANS' PARADE

MAY 30, 1928

"Get me my old knapsack, Mary, an' my uniform of gray,
Get my battered helmet, Mary, for I'll need 'em all to-day,
Get my canteen and my leggin's, reach me down my rusty gun,
For I'm goin' out p'radin' with the boys of sixty-one.

Never mind them blood-stains, Mary; never mind that ragged hole;
They were left there by a bullet that was seekin' for my soul;
Just brush off them cobwebs, Mary, get that bonnie flag of blue—
For I'm goin' out p'radin' with the boys of sixty-two.

These old clothes don't fit me, Mary, as they did when I was young;
Don't you recollect how neatly to my manly form they clung?
Never mind that sleeve that's empty; let it dangle loose and free,
For I'm goin' out p'radin' with the boys of sixty-three.

Pull my sword-belt tighter, Mary, fix that strap beneath my chin;
I've grown old and threadbare, Mary, like my uniform, and thin;
But I reckon I'll pass muster, as I did in days of yore,
For I'm goin' out p'radin' with the boys of sixty-four.

Now I'm ready; kiss me, Mary—kiss your old sweetheart good-bye,
Brush away them wayward tear-drops; Lord! I didn't think you'd cry;
I ain't goin' forth to battle, cheer up, Mary, sakes alive—
I'm just goin' out p'radin' with the boys of sixty-five."

MARTIN BENGTON.

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BETHEL COMPANION

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"Greater Englewood—a Survey and Bethel."

By THE PASTOR.

It was the privilege of the pastor to attend the Englewood Ministers' Federation monthly meeting, Wednesday, May 9th. Mr. McFarland, the Executive Secretary of the Englewood Y. M. C. A., showed the group of clergymen, by means of charts, the many-sided community life of "Greater Englewood." Naturally, the newcomer felt interested in the talk and a subsequent, lengthy conversation in the office of the Executive Secretary enabled Bethel's pastor to get a "close-up-view" of the community. The readers of the *BETHEL COMPANION* will no doubt welcome this information, for surely it is worth while.

Here are some community facts gleaned from the wide field of study.

"Greater Englewood" is a term coined by the local Y. M. C. A. and it has been estimated that this section of the city approximately numbers 250,000 inhabitants, which ought to make us realize our *community importance*. The boundary lines are Garfield Boulevard on the north and 87th Street on the south; State Street on the east and Western Avenue on the west.

The pastor was naturally interested in the survey as it relates to religious conditions in Englewood. But

in passing it might be stated that as regards

(1) *Social and Welfare Service* (which is a humanitarian movement or an organized or disciplined impulse to do good), discloses the fact that there are four Hospitals, two Industrial Homes, three Infant Welfare Departments, one Salvation Army, which by the way is strictly religious, five Social Settlements, one T. B. Station Dispensary, one United Charities and one Home for Orphans. Ten police and Fire Stations have been listed under this group and possibly they can be classified as Welfare Service.

(2) One might mention the *Business Districts* numbering thirty-nine, and the *Special Industries* such as the fifteen banks, nine newspapers, three Post Office Branches, the two large Railway offices as the R. I. and C. E. I., and three Railway Stations representing eleven different railways.

(3) *The Civic, Business and Improvement Associations*. There are eleven Business Men's Associations and the pastor expressed surprise because of the number of these groups. One would expect one association. The strongest business center is the Halsted and 63rd Business Men's Association, right next door almost to our own Bethel church. There are associations at 63rd and Ashland, 63rd and Western, 69th and Halsted,

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Pastor C. Emil Bergquist, Editor.
Mr. J. A. Walgren, Mgr., 6200 Peoria St.

Bethel Sw. Ev. Luth. Church Cor. 62nd and Peoria Streets.

63rd and Wentworth, 79th and Halsted, 79th and Western, and so on. The claim has been put forth that the 63rd and Halsted Business Association is the strongest business center outside the loop. The Englewood Chamber of Commerce, however, is an organization that functions as a sort of a clearing-house of business expression of these eleven associations.

(4) With regard to *Educational Facilities*, Englewood has one College, four High Schools, twenty-three Grade Schools, and three Junior High. Catholic Schools: four High Schools, thirteen Grade Schools. Englewood has three libraries. The Catholic Church is a strong educational force here.

(5) A word should be said as regards our *Recreational Facilities*. There is one Boys' Club, five Gymnasiums, three Parks, eight Playgrounds, forty Boy Scout Troops, and twenty-four Camp Fire Girls' Clubs. And the Commercialized Recreational Facilities—too many unfortunately. And such artificial means do not *re-create* weary minds

and spirits. The community should interest itself in providing direct wholesome recreational facilities. Parks and playgrounds are fine investments, but the good is largely counteracted by the commercialized amusements that foster questionable moral standards.

(6) But finally we come to the *Englewood Churches*. Statistically viewed, there are: Baptist Churches, nine; Episcopal, five; Evangelical, six; Methodist, thirteen; Presbyterian, ten; Reformed, four; Swedish Mission, four; Miscellaneous Churches, twelve; Seventh Day Adventists, two; Catholic, thirteen; Jewish, two; Colored, four. The Lutherans lead with fifteen churches, the Augustana Synod alone having five in Englewood.

In short, there are *one hundred three churches* in Englewood. What a religious influence this group constitutes! And the question naturally arises: Have the Protestant Churches developed a church community consciousness, say as the Catholic Church with its large and powerful churches? The study of the Englewood Church situation revealed some sobering facts. For instance, there are, not mentioning the denomination, nine congregations of one and the same denomination in Englewood. They stagger on, we are told, with limited financial backing, lacking necessary equipment, and are not, in brief, growing or flourishing. It is out of the question to talk of uniting different churches, each of which belong to a different denomination.

That has been done, to be sure, but as to the present wisdom of such a method or plan we Lutherans feel it is open to criticism. But when we have, say nine congregations in Englewood of the same church affiliation, none strong, why the natural thing is to readjust lines and merging of churches of the same persuasion should be the solution. Our Augustana Synod churches, however, we feel, are well situated in this respect.

A study of the chart wherein the church groups are listed (and by the way the one hundred three churches constitute sixteen main divisions) also shows that some districts have churches "bunched together," as it were, and other districts are not so well represented. There might be five churches in one district and in another we have only one church and possibly none. How shall such a condition be remedied? Only when the different denominations begin to have some sort of a joint planning commission which will study location and population from the viewpoint of the Kingdom of God.

Which brings us finally to Bethel. The pastor was made happy to know that Bethel ranks high as an Englewood church center. By the way it might interest the readers of the BETHEL COMPANION to know that on 62nd St. alone from Lincoln on to East there are fifteen churches. Think of it—on a straight line on one street running from west to east fifteen churches, and Bethel is considered as one of the *two* churches among these fifteen that is represen-

tative. The other thirteen eke out a bare church existence.

Has Bethel a "field"? Naturally many of our families have moved southward. They are pretty widely scattered. The question naturally arises: Will these families in the course of time, because of the distances involved, gradually lose active church interest? In some instances, no doubt, this happens. But we have also observed this noteworthy fact, that whenever families have a definite church interest they remain loyal and active and faithful regardless of distance. It can happen and does happen that individual members, within walking distance of the church, who lack a spiritual interest, will not show traits of loyalty, faithfulness and love for the church. The rule then works both ways. Of course, it remains true that members, who move a considerable distance from the church and whose church interest at best has only been half-hearted and occasional, will gradually drop out.

There is hardly an Augustana Church in Chicago which is able to state: "Our entire church membership is grouped around our church structure. The days are gone when the Swedes, the Germans, etc., will form compact community racial groups. The second and third generations are here and they settle in no nationalistic or racial neighborhood. Not the Scandinavians!"

Bethel members who have a real church love, who are bound to Bethel by life-long ties, as a rule, will remain devoted members regardless of

distances. Bethel is becoming an *institution* and is no longer merely an organization. For an institution is an organization that has stood the test of time, entered into the lives of members and been such a spiritual influence that its permanency is assured. Bethel is a name that is known far and wide. The ranks of the first generation that labored so faithfully are thinning; the second generation and even the third are continuing the work in a devoted and progressive spirit. Which gives us optimistic hopes for the future.

Further, there are numerous families in the vicinity of the church which have not been definitely touched by Bethel. Our growing Sunday school confirms this observation. Unchurched Lutherans abound here still by the score. In fact, 59th and Halstead still retains its Swedish character. Bethel has a decided mission in this community. Bethel ministers to all — let this be our future spiritual motto.

Has this article started you thinking along definite church lines? If so, our work has not been fruitless.

Conference Meeting.

(Continued)

On Saturday evening a grand concert was given by the Lutheran A-Cappella Choir. This choir is composed of students of Augustana College and people of the Tri-Cities.

On Sunday morning communion services were held. The convention came to a close at the evening service, Dr. G. A. Brandelle giving

the address. All churches in Moline and Rock Island dispensed with their services on that evening and joined with the First Church in Moline in one great, inspiring service in the Old Historical Church, which was filled to capacity.

On Sunday morning the visiting pastors at the convention occupied the pulpits in the various churches in the Tri-Cities.

You may read in our Church Press a detailed account of this convention, so we have touched briefly on what was done and the general impression we gained from this Convention.

The congregation and the whole community were excellent hosts and did their utmost to make the conference convention a pleasant and memorable one.

I wish to extend to the Bethel Congregation my gratitude for sending me as your representative to this, the 76th Annual Convention of the Illinois Conference.

Inom vår församling.

Fredagseftermiddagen den 4 maj avlade församlingens pastor ett intressant besök på vårt ålderdomshem, "Augustana Home for the Aged". Vi intogos av beundran, då vi beledsagades genom denna inrättning. Vår konferens har här en vacker egendom. Det kändes gott att veta att församlingens förre, många-åriga pastor, dr Fors, har nedlagt ett betydelsefullt arbete som medlem av direktionen. Bethel har sex medlemmar, vilka äro bosatta vid

hemmet. Det var från andlig synpunkt särdeles uppfriskande att tala med våra kära trossyskon och församlingsmedlemmar.

Våra aftongudstjänster ha varit rätt så väl besökta, då man tager i betraktande den kyrkliga tidstendensen. Våra kyrkor äro så gott som tomma på söndagsaftnarna. Pastorererna, snart sagt, ha haft ej så litet bekymmer däröver. Församlingens pastor hoppas, att intresset för kvällsgudstjänsterna kommer fortfarande att stiga. Om alla sanna efterföljare både till Gud om saken, skulle nog nytt andligt intresse förspörjas. Bönen är en makt, och bönens män och kvinnor kunna vara till stor välsignelse i Guds församling.

En vädjan göres härmed till våra församlingsmedlemmar. Det synes som om en gammal god svensk sed har så gott som bortlagts. Vad är det fråga om? Jo, att ta den svenska psalmboken, som ligger hemma, med till gudstjänsten. Församlingen har på hand ett begränsat antal psalmböcker i kyrkan. Ibland räkka icke dessa till. Tag med, käre församlingsmedlem, din psalmbok till kyrkan. Törhända du har ligande hemma en extra psalmbok, som du ej har bruk av. Giv den då såsom en gåva till församlingen. Denna gåva mottages med tacksamhet.

Bethel Church Briefs.

In the first part of May the pastor and family made an observation trip to Washington Park. The ex-

hibit of tulips that lined the wayside was wonderful. The different hues or colors caught our rather dormant attention and soon it quickened into interest and then the beauty of the different types of tulips regaled our senses. We can't resist the moral: How often we casually view a thing of beauty and allow the impression to fade away. In the spiritual world there is beauty and loveliness. The loveliness of Christ surpasses description. But at best we get occasional glimpses.

The Luther League May Sale, May 17th and 19th, showed what our young folks can do as far as spirit and coöperation are concerned. Our League is coming along.

The Bethel Brotherhood's meeting, May the 21st, was worth while. The Gideons rendered the program. The state president, Charles Kunz, was present; likewise F. A. Garlick, president of the Chicago organization. The Brotherhood made the pastor an associate member. The Gideons have placed 875,000 Bibles in hotels. Their mark is 1,000,000 Bibles by June 30th, 1928. God bless this movement!

The Song Service of the Choir, Sunday evening, May 20th, was, from a musical viewpoint, truly successful, which means that our Choir is attaining to a new standard. Mr. Peterson's faithful work is bearing fruit.

Ett hjärtligt tack.

Vill härmed genom BETHEL COMPANION uttrycka mitt hjärtliga tack till alla de kära vänner, som ha varit

och besökt mig under min sjukdom samt uppmuntrat mig på många sätt både med blommor och andra gåvor, och så även genom den penninggåva, som jag fått mottaga genom Alida Erikson. Ja, ett kärt tack till alla dem, som däruti deltagit. Må Gud välsigna eder alla, och må vi en gång få mötas på de nandra stranden, då allt lidande är över och ingen saknadens tår skall där mera frampressas, ty vi få se honom som vår själ kär haver och som har köpt oss med sitt dyra blod.

Vänligen

MISS BOTHILDA NELSON,
Presbyterian Hospital.

Ministerial Acts.

Baptisms in connection with regular Sunday morning worship in the church, Sunday, May the 13th:

Shirley Alice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Wegman, 7042 Throop St. Date of birth: March 15th, 1927.

George Walter Paul and Ruth Dorothy, son and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Leubeshier, 5958 So. Green St. Dates of birth respectively: March 1, 1916, and May 1, 1918.

Saturday, May 19th: Harry Leonard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Olof E. Bäckelin, 1016 W. 59th St. Date of birth: Feb. 26, 1928.

Sunday, May 27th: Eric Harry William, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf Johnson, 6037 Aberdeen St. Date of birth: Nov. 22, 1927.

Wedding.

Saturday, May 5th, at the Bethel

parsonage: Onard Watson and Jean Halgren, both residents of the West Side.

Our Church Organizations.

Bethel Circle met in the church parlors on May 9th, entertained by Thyra Johnson and Edna Gustafson. The meeting opened with song No. 122, after which Rev. Bergquist led in prayer and spoke to us on verses 3 and 4 of the 4th chapter of Revelation. In order to give as much time as possible to the program, the business part of our meeting was very brief. Upon motion made and carried we dispensed with the reading of the April minutes. Svea Broman, chairman of the Mother's Day committee, reported that all arrangements had been made for the Mother's Day party. Ruth Gustafson reported that the Visiting Committee made a call on Miss Bertha Nelson and her mother. We were happy to have with us Miss Katherine Douglass and Miss Marie Vlasto of Camp Lucerne, Warsaw, Indiana. Miss Vlasto, Associate Camp Director, gave an interesting talk on the activities of the camp and showed us movies taken during the swimming hour. We also enjoyed a reel of motion pictures of summer and winter scenes on Lake Algonquin in Canada. Mrs. Ellen Larson favored us with two vocal solos, and Miss Phyllis Califfe rendered two piano solos. The meeting closed with song No. 155 and prayer. Refreshments were served by the hostesses. Our next meeting will be on June 13th,

entertained by Florence and Olga Anderson at their home, 5930 Sangamon Street. All welcome.

EDNA GUSTAFSON, Sec'y.

Bethel Circle Mother's Day Party held in the church on Sunday, May 13th, at three o'clock, was well attended by the mothers of the congregation. Words of welcome were given by our president, Miss Esther Rodine, after which song No. 655 was sung. Rev. Bergquist led in Bible reading and prayer. The program consisted of readings by Miss Ruth Bjorklund; two solos, "Mor, lilla mor" and "Mother," by Mr. Bengtson; and talks in Swedish and English by Rev. Bergquist. Mrs. Axel Johnson, president of Dorcas, thanked the Bethel Circle in behalf of the mothers, after which Mr. Bengtson closed with prayer. A social hour was enjoyed in the church parlors and delicious refreshments were served by Miss Svea Broman and her committee.

Missionsföreningen höll möte den 4 maj i kyrkan, och förfriskningar serverades då av fruarna Herbert Larson och O. F. Olson. Mötet öppnades på sedvanligt sätt med sång samt bibelläsning och bön. Sedan fingo vi lyssna till tvenne sånger av fruarna Westberg och Larson samt läsning av mrs Burgeson. Sedan bibelförklaring av pastor Bergquist. Därefter avslöts mötet med bön. Nästa möte blir hos mrs J. A. Anderson, 8411 Throop st.

MRS CHAS. KNUTSON, sekr.

Dorkas-föreningen sammanträdde den 16 maj på inbjudning av fru-

arna B. Billings, C. Borgstrand, E. Bohlin, P. Broman. Mötet öppnades med sång, varefter pastor Bergquist läste Matt. ev. 5: 14—16 samt ledde i bön. Ordföranden, fru Johnson, hälsade alla välkomna, varefter protokoll från föregående möte justerades. Kassörens rapport: på hand \$198.53. Visittkommittéen rapporterade att 27 besök avlagts under månaden. Kommittéen inbjöds till fru Carlsons hem, 6718 Peoria St., med anledning af fru Carlsons 70:de födelsedag. Blommor hade skänkts till fruarna P. Christianson och Carlson. Födelsedagskassan: \$8.30. Fru Oskar Larson påminde medlemmarna om Linnea-föreningens möte å baptisternas ålderdomshem den 22 maj. Beslut fattades att besöka Long Lake den 2 juli. En tack-samhetsskrivelse, som inkommit från trustierna, upplästes, vari ett varmt erkännande uttalades därför att Dorkas lovat bekosta kyrkans dekorer. Pastorn pålyste om Södra Chicago-distriktets möte i Bethel den 19 juni, då installation äger rum. Dorkas har hand om serveringen vid detta tillfälle. Vårdinnorna vid vårt nästa möte, den 20 juni: fruarna E. Benson, 6034 Francisco Ave.; A. Bradish, 6736 Lowe Ave.; C. T. Carlson, 7725 Bishop St.; E. Carlson, 1657 W. 92 St. Födelsedagsgåvor inlämnades av fruarna C. Hageman, M. Westberg, J. Ekblom, E. Carlson. Ett gott program utfördes av Dorkas-kören, läsning af fru John Burgeson, piano-solo av June Bohlin, tal av pastorn. Mötet avslöts på sedvanligt sätt med sång och Herrens välsignelse. Gott

kaffe med dopp serverades. Medlemsavgiften blev \$19.00.00, hjälpfonden \$4.00.

Mrs J. E. NELSON, sekr.

Report of the Junior Mission Band. The Juniors started with Luther League song No. 17, after which song No. 49 was sung. Ruth Jansen sang the second verse of the latter as a solo. Rev. Bergquist led in prayer. Miss Melba Newstrom, our new leader, read a story about the "Sandal Race," which was enjoyed by the Junior Mission Band. Rev. Bergquist said a few words of appreciation and presented a book to Miss Carlson, our retiring leader. A program committee was then chosen and two new members, Priscilla and Laura Bergquist, were received. The Juniors then pasted pictures in books and helped make covers until we adjourned.

GLEN ANDERSON, Sec'y.

Bethel Brotherhood held its monthly meeting May the 21st in the church. The Gideons had charge of the program and a fine hour of Christian fellowship was enjoyed. No business was transacted and it was decided that the Executive Committee be authorized to arrange for any matters of urgent interest that may come up. An offering was lifted for the Gideons. The pastor was made an associate member of this organization which has as its purpose the placing of a Bible in every hotel room in the land. In a sense this meeting was a real Brotherhood affair, for the Christian traveling men bore witness to their

Master that warmed the hearts of us all. Come to our next meeting—it's going to be another worth-while affair.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S COLUMN

THE HILL: CALLED NORBURY.

I seldom pass
This wind-torn tree,
Or walk this hill,
Or tread this grass,

But, I do see
Another Tree,
Another Hill,
Another Grass.

Lee: Do you know Shakespeare well?

Olee: G'wan, you can't fool me. Shakespeare is dead.

Newedd: I really oughtn't speak of it, but my wife's cooking is terrible.

Lodwedd: Cheer up, my boy. The first hundred biscuits are the hardest.

Me: I don't enjoy eating.

He: Why?

Me: Because it spoils my appetite.

On the evenings of May 18 and 19 the young folks of our Luther League sponsored a May Sale. There were nine booths in which most anything could be purchased for the home pantry or person.

A goodly sum was received, approximately \$500.

The Leaguers wish to extend their thanks to the donators of the many things which helped to make our

May Sale a success. The Leaguers also extend their thanks to the purchasers of the various articles on display.

The actual use of the receipts has not, as yet, been decided upon.

We have a professional pancake maker in our midst. Wonder who he is? ? ?

Announcements.

The June meeting of the Southern Chicago District will be held in Bethel Tuesday afternoon and evening, June the 19th. At the afternoon session Dr. Axel Nelson introduces the topic for discussion: "Inspiration of Scriptures." In the evening the pastor will be installed and Dr. Peter Peterson will preach the sermon. Rev. A. C. Rylander will also speak.

Sunday morning, June the 15th, a delegation from Bethel will visit Cisco Beach, Wisconsin. The pastor will conduct the service at the Inner Mission Summer Camp. This trip is sponsored by our local Nursery Society. We would urge our members to "come along." Welcome!

Remember the Taggers' Reception at the Augustana Home for Chaplains and Taggers, Monday, June 4th, 1928, 7:30 P. M.

The Augustana College Appeal Fund for \$1,500,000 belongs now to the past. Bethel has been along and the response has been good. Yet there are some members who have not as yet made any pledges. We

trust that you will donate something towards this fund, if you have not done so hitherto. In this way you will help us to increase our contribution as a Bethel Church. Mr. Ahlberg, the president of the Trustees, is chairman of the local committee. To all who assisted in this work we say God bless you and heartily thank you. Our local committee deserves a word of grateful acknowledgment.

A SAFE TREASURE-HOUSE.

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.—Matthew 6. 20.

A gentleman who had been in affluent circumstances met with financial reverses. A short time after this a friend was expressing his sympathy and said, "You lost everything, did you not?" "No," was the reply. "I thought you did," exclaimed his friend. "No," the gentleman continued, pointing to a successful young minister, who at that time was passing on the opposite side of the street, "A few years ago I put a thousand dollars into the education of that young man, and I haven't lost that."

Riches take to themselves wings and fly away; moth and rust corrupt earthly possessions; fire burns them and floods sweep them away, but the treasures which we put into spiritual values are permanent, declaring dividends in eternity as well as time.

We must never regard gentleness as rudeness or harshness to indicate a sign of weakness, as we must take courage.—W. L. Watkinson.



AFTONBÖN.

I skogen grön, i sommartid,
hur stilla, tyst det är;
och ofta uti kvällens frid
jag ensam dröjer där.

Hit nå ej världens stöj och larm,
ej bättre plats jag vet, —
att nalkas Gud, min skapare,
i stilla ensamhet.

Att här för honom tala om,
allt vad som trycker mig.
Och faror utav alla slag,
här på min levnadsstig.

Han lyssnar till mitt hjärtas röst,
och skänker, vila skön.
Då allt för Gud jag burit fram
uti min aftonbön.

Johan Erik Rosenberg.
Erie, Pa., den 15 maj 1928.

MOT LJUSA DAR...!

Sommarglans har redan skyn
fast den ännu snöstorm gömmer
lärkan sjunger över byn,
som i sol om sommar drömmar.

Långa dagar komma ju
efter långa vinternätter —
vildgässplogen susar nu
över vattendränkta slätter.

Snart skall jorden blomprydd stå
som när brud sin brudgum väntar —
av ett guldregn följs han då,
när på österns port han gläntar.

Bofinkssång ur pingstgrön lund
skall med flöjtspel honom hälsa,
när en rosig morgonstund
han går fram att världen frälsa.

Fräls oss, sol, från köld och natt,
fräls oss, sol, från hat och strider!
Grönt jag fäster i min hatt —
pingst det är ju hoppets tider!

Daniel Fallström.

JOHANNES KRYSTOMUS.

Bland kyrkofäderna torde icke många vara så kända av den stora allmänheten som han. Han föddes år 347 efter Kristus i Antiokia och blev 398 biskop i Konstantinopel, där han på kejsarinnan Eudoxias anstiftan avsatte på en synod i Kalcedon och landsförvist, varefter han återkallades, men blev åter avsatt och förvisad till Pityus vid Svarta havet; på resan dit avled han den 14 september år 407. Detta är de allmänna dragen i hans historia, men därav lär man icke känna mannen och hans storhet. Han var lika ryktbar för sin värtalighet som för sin fromhet. Den förra förskaffade honom namnet Krystomus, som betyder guldmun, och den senare gjorde honom till en av pelarna i Guds församling. Han förstod icke blott att på ett hjärtligt och lockande sätt inbjuda till Kristi kors, utan han kunde också, då så behöfdes, allvarligt bestraffa, utan anseende till person, var det än kejsaren själv. Denne blev så förbittrad däröver, att han en gång sade till sina hovmän: "Om jag bara visste, hur jag skulle få hämnd på denne man!" Dessa menade sig genast kunna giva kejsaren råd i den saken. Den ene sade: "Låt landsförvisa honom!" Den andre: "Lagg beslag på hans ägodelar!" Den tredje: "Kasta honom i fängelse och belägg honom med kedjor!" Den fjärde: "Tag livet av honom! Du är ju härs-kare — låt halshugga honom." Men den femte sade: "Allt det där tjänar till intet. Du kan icke förvisa honom till någon plats, där hans Gud icke vore hos honom; och där hans Gud är, där är hans hem. Tager du ifrån honom hans penningar, så plundrar du därigenom de fattiga. Kastar du honom i fängelse, så går han dit i sällskap med sin Gud. Han kysser sitt kors och är nöjd. Och tager du ifrån honom hans liv — nåja, då först skall han riktigt jubla; ty livets ände är för honom salighetens början och in-

gången i himmelen. Allt detta hjälper dig ej. Jag vet endast ett medel att kunna hämnas på honom; du måste kunna tvinga honom att falla i någon grov synd. Ty jag känner mannen — han fruktar ingenting i denna världen mer än detta ena: synden." Men det lyckades ej för kejsaren att få honom att synda, utan han sände detta Guds oförfärad vittne i landsflykt, för att få hava fred för hans bestraffningar. Slutligen avled Krystomus på vägen till sin sista lands-

flyktsort i staden Romena i Pontus och skildes hädan med de orden: "Gud vare lovad för allt!"

Vill du veta något om en människas sinne, se då efter vad hon sysselsätter sig med på lediga stunder, när tanken har rast. Där eder skatt är, där är ock edert hjärta, sade Jesus en gång. * * *

Abraham trodde Gud, och det räknades honom till rättfärdighet; och han blev kallad Guds vän. Jak. 2: 23.

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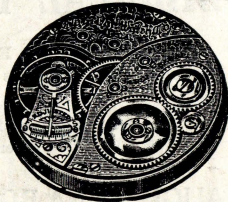
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