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"Apostolic Fervor" - Galveston News (August 23, 1906)

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APOSTOLIC FERVOR

WEEPING AND SHOUTING, WAILING,
MOANING AND PREACHING, CHAR-
ACTERIZED SERVICES.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

ONCE AN UNCONVERTED ONE LAYS
HIS HEAD ACROSS THE BENCH
THEY GATHER.

PROVIDED FOR BY THE LORD

They Never Take Up Collections—Speak-
ing in Unknown Tongues—Galves-
ton a Hard Place.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS.

Houston, Tex., Aug. 22.—Weeping, shouting, wailing, moaning, preaching, singly and collectively, but never in harmony, by forty or fifty people of all ages, were done last night by the people who participated in the meeting of the Apostolic Successionists in their tabernacle in the edge of Brunner, a suburb two miles west of Houston on the Washington street road. Toward the close of the meeting the religious spirit ran so high that there seemed to be no controlling it. The fervor of the leading figures, through the mental and physical strenuousness that possessed them, simply made the sweat flow out of their pores in great sluices or stand out upon their faces and foreheads in great beads, that sparkled in the yellow light like apphires. It was all at the nightly meeting of the Apostolic Successionists. The shed, for it is not much more, in which all took place is about 70 by 125 feet. The covering rests on upright posts. Across the west side are nailed several twelve-inch planks with space of a few inches between them, a protection from the ground to the eaves of the shed. These planks back up the rostrum or platform from which the preaching is done. The remainder of the wall is actually nothing but a couple of twelve-inch plank to each side, except one. This one is the east side and is wide open for all to enter and depart by their own free will. The seats are twelve-inch benches without backs, with ends touching to reach across the tabernacle. The floor is covered with shavings and the lights are supplied by gas or kerosene. The pavilion is three blocks away from the Brunner street car line to the north. It can be seen without effort from the cars. The meetings are conducted by Mr. Parkour, the founder, when he is here and by Mr. W. W. Corothers, his trustee, and the State director in his absence. He is the controlling spirit, but many others participate in the meeting, in fact do most of the participating. These are men and women, but mostly the latter. The services begin in a mild mannered way and this continues until the spirit begins to manifest itself in persons who have various stages of the religion. These manifestations take the form of shouts, exclamations, swinging the arms in the air, covering the faces with the hands, but some move rapidly, weeping and shouting. Toward the close they seat themselves among the shavings on the floor, throwing their arms across a long bench and resting their heads upon it. As soon as a ~~unconverted~~ person takes this position the workers gather around and do the laying on of hands, talking all the while in English, an "unknown tongue." They ~~express their hands upon the new subject.~~ One little woman, girlish in appearance, sat close to a man, eyes closed, face upturned toward the light, hands and arms in motion all the time, and ~~singing~~ moving like an electric fan at full speed, sometimes uttering English, sometimes not. When her case was inquired into it was learned that she was praying for the conversion and salvation of her husband, the man by whom she sat. Another woman appeared to be assisting her, as both were talking at full speed all the time and appeared to be mentally concentrated upon him.

*Galveston News
Aug 23-1905*

Another scene was an old, gray-haired man leaning over a blonde-haired child, perhaps 10 or 11 years old, stroking her hair and talking into her ear as if seated in her arms, stretched across the bench. Others were made up of old ladies praying upon the benches alongside a man, a boy, or child. These were there over and over. A striking figure was made up of two men, one standing on the platform and the other in front of it, the former grasping the latter's head tightly and ~~pressing~~ all the while with face upturned. A pretty little blonde-haired woman, Miss Byrd, apparently less than 20 years of age, cautiously made her way around and between the half prostrate figures without stepping upon any of them, was stopped and asked how she was progressing, and what it all meant. She explained some of the stages of the religion several of the persons had obtained. One stage, "pentecost," was particularly interesting, inasmuch as they could talk in "unknown tongues" when they got that far along. She pointed out cases that were then doing. She further explained that the successionists never took up collections, but implicitly depended on the Lord for their support. She herself had been in Texas over a year and they always found sustenance and support, even when their condition seemed desperate. She had been at Galveston and had lived there, a place which she halvely remarked "is a hard place, you know," five days on rice and milk. That hard trial was broken by a box from Alvin containing many substantialis sent by the Lord. When asked if they had been to Alvin, she said they had, and had cured a man who was lame and had a cancer in his face. He had been cured by the prayers of the successionists. She also spoke of the hard time they had working upon the people of Columbia until they got the past master converted, who was a hard subject, but when they finally did convert him others came in and he became one of the best members. They often got money, she admitted, but it came from people whose heart had been entered by the Lord. She was able to talk in "unknown tongues," and stated that many converts became qualified to talk in unknown tongues, but they didn't know what they were saying. She cited a particular case where a young woman who didn't understand a word of Bohemian, but while making an address broke into Bohemian, and another woman who did understand was almost dumb-founded when she heard the former speaking it.

praying

The most touching scene at the meeting was the fact that infants apparently from ten months to 2, 3, 4 and 5 years old brought to the meeting by mothers, were asleep upon quilts spread upon the floor in ones, twos, to five in a bunch. They slept soundly without the least attention. They were all dressed in little white garments and slept in all kinds of positions. There were as many as fifteen counted on the floor. Wrapped in the arms of sweet sleep they were totally unconscious of the noise and excitement about them. Several times some of them came near being trod upon by persons unaware of their sleeping.

The ~~overpowering force of the religion~~ seems to take a convert off his feet a times, as in the case of a man holding a position with a laundry in this city. He was one of the best paid employes, getting \$25 per week. He had a wife and two small children. He gave up his job and started into the work. His family was dependent upon him and when he was asked how they would be cared for he stated that he believed that the Lord would take care of them. Since he gave up his position his wife has persuaded him to go to San Antonio, where their people live, and ~~the~~ the successionists will remain here the remainder of the week. They had planned to close the meeting last Sunday, but the heaven was working so well they added the week.

Corothers

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