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Welsh Revival

Hannah Whitall Smith

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MR. EVAN ROBERTS AT HOME.

HIS MOTHER'S CONFIDENT HOPE.

FUTURE OF THE WELSH REVIVAL.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

CARDIFF, Sunday Night.

Many a quivering lip bade Evan Roberts "God-speed" as he left Rhondda Valley for his Loughor home after the closing service of Friday night. He lives in an unpretentious little cottage just off the main road as you journey to Swansea from the borderland. His father is a working collier of acknowledged character and sturdy independence. The mother appears to be a distinctly superior type of woman. If heredity is to count for anything, here probably in her gentleness and goodness and energy of enthusiasm will be found the explanation of those distinguishing qualities which make Evan Roberts so resolute and yet so lovable and irresistibly persuasive an influence in the life of Wales. During a visit, she said she had been reluctant to let the revivalist go away at first, but now her heart was full of thanksgiving for the service "Evan" had been able to render the Master. "My sacrifice, my lad!" she says to one of her visitors, "you can't expect anything from God without self-sacrifice."

The father is loud in his praise of the Press for the help it has given the revival. These are the mild and devotional simplicities and sincerities amid which the revivalist grew. Next Wednesday he begins a mission in Clydach, Swansea Valley.

Before quitting these rock-bound regions of the Rhondda, he uttered his Christmastide message: "Never lose sight of Jesus." This was said with special reference to the stern inward conflicts in thousands of reclaimed lives during these next few festive days. Prayers have been publicly sought on their behalf that they may not fall in the way. "Oh, pray that I may not be overcome," was the substance of one pleading prayer, as he looked forward to this recontact with the chill experiences of common day life. The revivalist is burdened with no such fear, and the social transformation witnessed last night justifies his trust. Never have these vast centres of population been so free from coarse speech and conduct. The Celtic nature is not all sentiment. It knows how to translate its convictions into conduct.

Mr. Roberts is confident of another 40,000 conversions during the next fortnight. Visitors still pour into the Welsh revival neighbourhood. The revivalist has been invited by deputation to visit Newport. He replied that he had prayed over the matter, and was satisfied that the Spirit wanted him to come; but he added: "You must not wait for me to come before inviting the Spirit. Get Him at once, and it does not matter whether I come sooner or later; but I promise to come." That is all the friends could get from him.

The baptismal fonts are being heavily taxed. At one church alone in the Monmouthshire valleys (which Mr. Roberts has not yet touched) there are about 200 converts. At Nantyglo a young lady stood up, and having sang a solo said there were two young ladies at the meeting with whom she was not friendly. Tears began trickling down her cheeks, and in a broken voice she continued: "I want to break the ice between us. I forgive them, and I hope they will forgive me." By this time the ladies referred to were in tears, and the old friendships were renewed. The candidates for immersion at Morriston range from 15 to 80. At Swansea the Salvation Army records the case of a woman who was a confirmed drunkard, and had often pawned her things for drink. She came to the meetings accompanied by an old woman of 78 years of age, and they were both converted. Gambling and the sale of Sunday newspapers are on the decrease, and football, "as it is played," is falling in popular favour. Even Eisteddfodau are neglected. In home districts betting women are the subject of direct intercession.