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Correspondence

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Return

Charnwood,
Hoylake.

Dec. 7, 1908.

Mrs. Pearsall Smith,

Dear Madam:-

You will pardon the liberty I take in writing you, but I have long wished to tell you how greatly I have been helped by your writings and addresses. Your "Secret of a Happy Life" I have read over and over again, and I have often made use of it in our Class-meeting, to the great profit of our members. But about thirty years ago I heard you speak at a Meeting in the North of London. I cannot now recall the place, but think it was in the neighbourhood of Camden Town. In the course of your address you spoke of the characteristics of the four Gospels, illustrating your point by the four faces of Ezekiel x. 14. As a minister - for I am in the ministry of the Wesleyan Methodist Church - I had of course noticed these differences in the Gospels, but your words set my mind and heart vibrating with new thoughts; and returning to my Lancashire home I wrote a paper on "The Human Element in the Gospels", which I read before a Society of our younger ministers, who used to meet each Quarter for the discussion of theological questions. This paper was afterwards published in "The Expositor", and other articles followed on the same subject. This led to something more: for when the Editor was arranging for "The Expositor's Bible" series, I was asked to write the volume on "St. Luke", which I did. But my "St. Luke", and my "Gleanings in the Gospels" are a harvest which grew from the seed-thoughts you sowed that evening, now nearly thirty years ago. So I owe you much, and I thank you most sincerely for all that you have done; and if this letter reaches you, it will give me much pleasure to send you the volumes I have named, if you will kindly accept the same, from

Yours faithfully and gratefully,

Henry Burton