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Welsh Revival

Hannah Whittall Smith

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1983

## **Box 11\_38 (Welsh Revival, 1904)**

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# IMMERSED IN A RIVER.

## BITTERLY COLD BAPTISM FOR NINETY-FOUR CONVERTS.

The extraordinary scene at Peterstone, near Cardiff, on Sunday, when fifteen converts were baptised in the icy waters of the River Ely, was perhaps surpassed in interest by a similar occurrence at Lower Fishguard, in Pembrokeshire, where ninety-four converts were baptised in the River Gwayne.

The ceremony was witnessed by a gathering of 4,000 persons, and at its commencement there was a fierce hailstorm, followed by a pelting rain, which continued during the afternoon. It was the coldest day experienced at Fishguard this winter.

Those baptised were all candidates for membership of Heron Baptist Chapel—the largest in the county. The pastor, the Rev. Dan Davies, after a short devotional service, entered the water by improvised steps, and the candidates were passed to him, and each in turn was immersed. The women, some of whom had reached the allotted span of three score years and ten, wore white garments, but each passed through the severe ordeal bravely.

The actual ceremony of immersion was performed in half an hour, and during the whole time a reverent hush prevailed, the silence being broken only by the solemn blessing of the minister and the gurgling of the water.

At Llanelly, too, a great many candidates were baptised.

## PRAYING FOR THE POLICE.

Prayer meetings are being held nightly at almost every chapel in Rhondda Valley, and processions frequently march through the streets.

At one place the police desired the procession to move on, whereupon a number of women fell on their knees and prayed that the police might have soft hearts.

During the singing at a chapel at Pwllheli, Carnarvonshire, a man sitting in the gallery got up excited and said that he had not spoken with his father for fifteen years. "Forgive me, father, for God's sake," he cried out. A white-haired old man with bent shoulders sitting below looked up and replied, "Yes, my son." The son then proceeded from the gallery to the old man's seat, and as they embraced, the crowded gathering wept with joy.

At Talysarn, in Carnarvonshire, people walked about the aisles of a chapel singing hymns and praying while promenading. The meeting lasted seven hours, and many of the worshippers were so moved that they clapped their hands, waved handkerchiefs, and shouted with joy.

## "DANCERS" IN DIFFICULTIES.

The Pentecostal Dancers, who are conducting their extraordinary revival in Camberwell, are threatened with an enforced change of quarters.

At present they are installed in the little corrugated iron chapel in Wellis-street, Albany-road, owned by Mr. R. White, the well-known mineral water manufacturer. It is let to a Baptist community for the merely nominal rent of £15 a year, and they in turn have sub-let it to the Rev. Obadiah Kent White for £2 2s. a week.

The owner, who does not regard the proceedings of the Dancers altogether sympathetically, had no idea that the chapel would be sub-let at a profit of 700 per cent. per annum. He cannot deal with the Dancers direct, but the tenants—the Baptists—have been served with a notice that in future their rent will be £100 a year.

The increase will take effect very shortly, for the agreement is only a monthly one. It is therefore very probable that the Dancers will move. They are, however, holding an important meeting at 7.30 this evening.