CIVILIZATION BY FAITH

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By

JOHN G. WOOLLEY

With portrait of the Author

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The five speeches here presented were prepared for Conventions of the Young People's Christian Union of the United Presbyterian Church.

Only one of them—"The Mercies of God"—was ever repeated. It is printed here from a newspaper report of the Virginia Conference of the M. E. Church, South.

None of them has been revised, though doubtless all of them would be the better for it; but it seems to me that their purpose would not be furthered by extra polish. They have made people think; they may make others. For themselves, they have neither ambition nor hope. Of justification for their present conspiracy, there is none but this, that they may better serve and better wait.

Without a formal dedication, which would be presumptuous, I send a blessing and a cheer to the Society which has been the greatest blessing and the greatest cheer to me.

Chicago, Jan. 1, 1899.

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"And at midnight, Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God; and the prisoners heard them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled. But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm, for we are all here. Then he called for a light, and sprang in and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, and brought them out and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

IT is a strange story, abrupt, inartistic, improbable; the bones of a story—reported after the manner of modern stenography, in consonants—omitting all vowel sounds. But one thing stands out plain as a pikestaff, which answers my whole purpose with you tonight, and that is, that these two men, one a great preacher and the other a young business man, traveling with him, were severely tried in a variety of ways in a brief time, yet 'pulled together,' and were exactly