

**LIGHT IN DARKNESS:
BEING AN ACCOUNT OF
THE SALVATION ARMY
IN THE UNITED STATES**

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Light in Darkness: Being an Account of the Salvation Army in the United States by F. Booth-Tucker

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BY
COMMANDER BOOTH TUCKER

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THE NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE SALVATION ARMY
IN AMERICA

I.—LIGHT IN DARKNESS.

The true diagnosis of a disease is the necessary preliminary to its successful treatment and cure. The ostrich that buries its head in the sand and imagines, because it cannot see its pursuer, that the lion is no longer there, does not thereby escape. The hunger-roars of the lion of poverty, of social unrest, of irreligion may be heard in our land. It behooves us to investigate the extent of the evil, its causes and its remedies, and then with brave hearts to brace ourselves for the battle with our hydra-headed enemy.

At present the cause is not lost, the avalanche has not overwhelmed us, the volcano has not burst its bonds, the evil is not beyond our reach, victory is not impossible. But we have only to pursue a policy of drift, to disregard the symptoms of the times, to close our ears to warnings, to wrap ourselves up in stolid indifference, to pursue our business, or our pleasures, to dabble with surface symptoms when we should strike at the root of the disease, to remain divided in our forces and uncertain as to our remedies, to keep bailing out the ocean with a quart pot and sweeping back its waves with a broom—and it needs no prophet to foretell that if not for ourselves, for our children and children's children the flood-tides of destruction may overwhelm us, where barriers might have been erected and an ample provision made. "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on and are punished."

Indeed, there is no reason for despair. Never was the outlook brighter for a complete mastering of the problems of

**The Problem
of Poverty**

**A Hopeful
Outlook**

poverty, and for their solution on a huge and systematic scale of which the world has never dreamed.

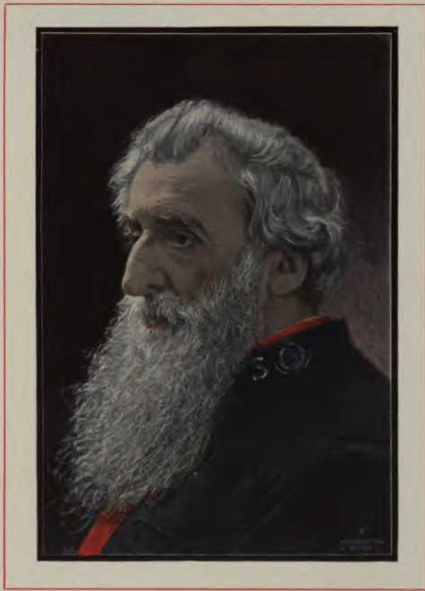
The necessary elements for success are all there—

1. The salvation of God.
2. A plan which has been tried, tested, modified, improved and suited to all emergencies.
3. Millions of eager, noble-hearted men and women prepared to toil, sacrifice and suffer on humanity's behalf.
4. Capital without limit, land rich and fertile, nature's resources in abundance, science's discoveries, medicine's skill, transportation's speed, learning's researches, journalism's watchtower, national prosperity, unheard of, undreamt of in the past, combine with the glorious consolations and upliftings and benevolences of Christ's own Christianity to open up before us a vista of magnificent accomplishment which may well cause the heart of every lover of God and humanity to bound for gratitude and joy! Let us see to it that our link in the chain is not missing.

II.—THE FOUNDER OF THE SALVATION ARMY.

And here we may well pause to describe briefly the man who has been used by God to create this far-reaching movement, and who is now, for the fourth time, visiting our shores.

William Booth Born on the 10th of April, 1829, in the city of Nottingham, England, William Booth was converted at the age of fifteen. Standing on an ash-barrel in the market places or in the



GENERAL WILLIAM BOOTH
FOUNDER OF THE SALVATION ARMY

slums, his slender and striking personality soon became associated in the minds of the passers-by with that zeal in behalf of others which has characterized his entire career.

As an evangelist he met with extraordinary success. The largest buildings were unable to contain the multitudes who flocked to his meetings. Thousands were converted.

Realizing, however, that his congregations consisted largely of those who were church members, he determined to devote himself to reaching the unchurched masses.

It was in July, 1865, on Mile End Waste, in the East End of London, amid vice, degradation and squalor, probably without parallel in any corner of the globe, that he commenced his work of spiritual and social reform.

Looking back to that starting-point truly it seems that centuries of accomplishment have been crowded into the interval.

Born in a whirlwind, cradled in a storm, The Salvation Army stands forth to-day the marvellous creation of this modern Alexander's genius. Its Macedonian phalanx has turned—not to attack the forces of good, but those of evil; not to discourage a single effort for the welfare of mankind, but to make more possible their success—by flinging itself with locked shields and serried spears against the very ramparts of sin and woe. Its task is not complete. It is scarcely more than begun. But an ample demonstration has been made as to the glorious possibilities within the reach of fire and faith. A fighting force has been created, the outworks have been captured, the central citadels of misery and sin have been invested, retreat has been turned into advance, defence into vigorous assault, despair into hope, defeat into victory.

As a preacher, General Booth enjoys the happy distinction of having seen more persons definitely converted to God **The General as a Preacher**