THE SALVAGE OF MEN: STORIES OF HUMANITY TOUCHED BY DIVINITY

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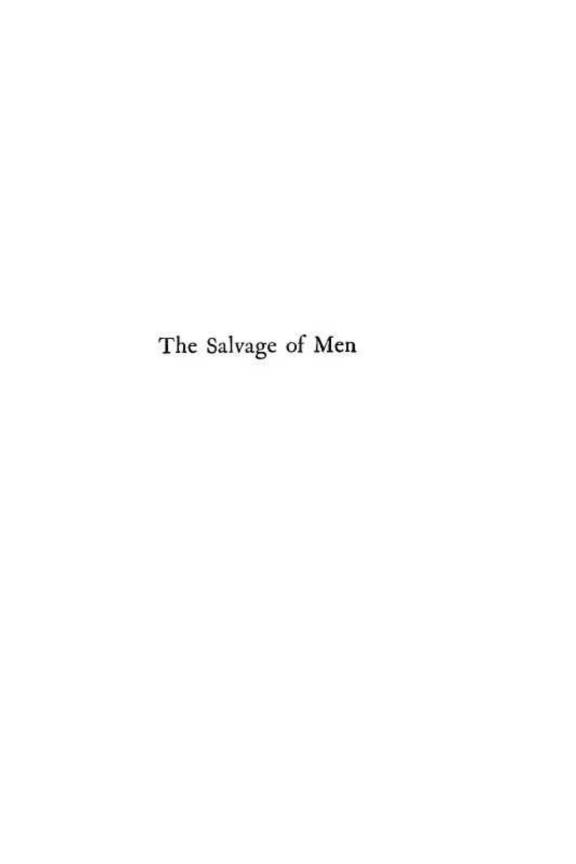
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Stories of Humanity
Touched by Divinity



AGNES L. PALMER



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Copyright, 1913, by FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY

New York: 158 Fifth Avenue Chicago: 125 North Wabash Ave. Toronto: 25 Richmond Street, W. London: 21 Paternoster Square Edinburgh: 100 Princes Street A world chaotic, formless, darkened, wild Revolved in space, evolved no higher state; This to achieve, and furnish earth's first child Outer with intra forces must relate. God's Spirit brooded o'er the seething mass, Upforth leaped order, beauty, light and peace. Now Man, God's greatest highest work, alas With intellect unmeasured, doth increase His perverse way which caused him first to fall; The impress of the God almost effaced, His majesty and strength is withered—small. Can steps so wrongly walked e'er be retraced? Divinity which darkness changed to light Is still abroad transforming wrong to right.

W. F. P.



Preface

Some years have passed since the reading world shuddered over Frankenstein—the creature which was supposed to be a scientist's greatest triumph in its perfect imitation of man and his bitterest defeat in that the immortal elixir had eluded his alchemy, and his creation remained soulless.

To deprive the Salvation Army of its Divine origin and mission, and divorce its social from its spiritual energies is to reduce it also to the level and danger of a Frankenstein. Bereft of the significance and power of religion, all this mighty machinery and growing influence becomes but a menace in the realm of social ethics; shorn of its soul its seemingly most secular operation miserably mocks the needs which knock at its gate. Only through the eye of its faith can its import to the sociology of to-day and to-morrow be adequately interpreted.

With this thought in mind the following pages have been written, suggesting the Army's work in the United States wholly from a spiritual aspect. Its manifold agencies for the reformation, rehabilitation and regeneration of man are revealed here in the story of their products, for are not converts ever the most reliable demonstration as well as the most conclusive argument for any organization? Upto-date figures regarding these results are continually offered for the public's perusal, but figures alone can never tell the whole story. We are of the opinion that the mathematical view of work which deals with the live woes and wants of humanity is a very cold and inadequate one. As we read the Gospel's narrative of the Master's ministry, we are impressed with the details given to the cases of individual converts and the summary way in which the blessing of the multitude is recorded. Christ never saw or saved by the thousand, and the hand which reaches and wins men to-day is that which goes out for the salvation of the unit. Undoubtedly it is this personal touch which has so largely stripped from the Army's institution the cold name of charity which deals with the erring in erouds, and crowned it as mercy which deals with them as individuals.