

seemed bleak and empty. The people hurried along in silence; old snow lay frozen hard in the dark dirty corners; and the dust was thick. Over the roofs the sky seemed particularly black, foggy, and cold.

It was night.

No sound except those of the vehicles flying over the rough pavement, the pounding tramcars that passed, and the shoes of the hurrying people. . . . but at last, at intervals above the other sounds there came what seemed to be a voice raised in shouting or speaking; and on coming to a place where two mean dark side streets met I found on the pavement a short plump gentle but very earnest Negro of forty who was urging upon passers the principles of Jesus' teaching. He used the inflection and diction of Negroes in this part of the world, but he was neatly dressed and wore a greatcoat; his head was bare, for he had placed his round black hat against an iron hydrant for the reception of coins. Four or five men who had turned aside from the main street were listening to him; more, however, were going into the half-screened drinking places all about. Besides, the farther side of the street in which he stood contained a row of little dark wooden buildings that held Negro brothels.

It was a dusty winter night.

"You men, naow:" the Negro was crying in a ringing, pleasing voice, "you got to be good! You got to do as God says! It ain't gwine do you no good to pray to God if you don't do as He says! Don't you go to fightin and killin and gamblin and then pray to God. It ain't gwine do you no good! First you got to quit yo fightin, quit yo killin, quit yo drinkin, quit yo gamblin, quit yo swarin, quit yo whore-mongerin: God does not wish you to do these things! Then you go to Him and pray! And He's gwine hear what you say!"

The utterance of these words with singular force in that stirring melodious voice, and the face and form of the little man made lovely by joy, faith and good will, shone in that bleak cold street, it seemed to me, like glittering gold shining from the gutter dust.

I drew nearer and listened to him say that he had come here because he had been bidden by God to go among men and preach the Word, not as preached in worldly churches but as the