

Ethan O. Allen

By REV. W. T. MacARTHUR, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

SOME twelve years ago the writer published a brief sketch of the life of this most extraordinary man. The available data covering the last thirty-five or forty years of his life were not sufficient to make a biography possible. We have recently come across an account of his experience (published by himself in 1883) between the years 1846 and 1883, when, as he puts it, "my mind was exercised upon the subject of Faith Healing." We give herewith the closing paragraphs of the booklet.

"The doctrine of holiness and the gift of healing are neglected by a majority of preachers and lay members, and thus they escape the reproach of the world and a backslidden church, and never have the spirit of glory and of God resting on them as it otherwise would. Shall the Church 'live by bread alone' or 'by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God' and 'the faith once delivered to the saints'? Dear brethren, consecrate yourselves, not only to feed the sheep and lambs of Christ, but to become nursing fathers and mothers in the Church, and let Christ make you the ministers of His healing as well as sin-destroying power, for Christ both healed and forgave sins at the same time. Now, why hold

to the one and neglect the other? Why set one lamp on the stand, and the other under the bushel? Ministers of Christ now have no other commission than that of the apostles; and if you accept the commission and consecrate yourselves to the Lord, you have the right to claim the fulfillment of these promises; and as sure as you are called of God, He will break none of them, but is pledged to fulfill them.

"Look at Christ's last commission to His apostles: 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. . . . And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents ; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them. They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.'

"Christ's promises are all for help in times of need. Not that we should hunt up a deadly serpent and take him up. Nay; but when such things cannot be avoided, these promises are for God's children to lay hold of as readily as on any others. We are in a land of demons and of sicknesses, and these promises of casting out and healing by prayer and laying on of hands are available

even in these days of apostasy. 'Who hath believed our report?' But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him' (John 12: 37). Perhaps it is more so in these days. Yet there are a few afflicted ones who, I trust, will believe and receive the healing virtue and be made whole of their infirmity. 'According to your faith be it unto you' (Mat. 9: 29). Christ's words were true eighteen hundred years ago, and they are true now.

Try them, ye afflicted ones. Christ, our Redeemer, says: 'Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house' (Mark 2: 9-11). Here it is plainly demonstrated that it is just as easy to do the one as the other. To forgive sins and heal is a work our precious Redeemer never refused to do when on earth. He is the same Savior today. Let us not limit His power by wicked unbelief. He always encouraged faith in Himself and His Word, but many times upbraided the people and the apostles for their unbelief."

William T. MacArthur was a close associate of A. B. Simpson's and met "Father Allen" through Simpson. Allen spoke at the Old Orchard Beach Camp meeting around 1894 and other C&MA events. He traveled often to C&MA healing homes. This article is currently missing from their online archives.

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