

A Page For Salvationist-Musicians

THE FOUNDER Describes The Army's Musical Hosts as

A FORCE TO SHAKE THE WORLD

WHAT a mighty power for good our Bands have been in the past! All around the world they have helped our onward march. But I never muse on the work already done without thinking of what they are destined to do in the future.

What a fascination music has over the human soul! Let us learn as quickly as we can to appreciate its great value, to possess ourselves of it as far as possible, to find its proper place in our warfare, and to guide and control it so that we may make the best possible use of it in saving the world.

Who will help me in this task? Our Bandsmen play their instruments for the love of God and man. No other religious organization on the face of the earth has such a force. Yet it is only in its infancy. What will it not become?

Our musical forces ought to shake the world. It shall be done. Who will help me to bring it to pass? My hope is largely in the Bandmaster. He is the man for me. I want him to come right over to my side, and give me his heart if he has not done so already. He is the responsible party. His influence ought to carry all before it. It will do, if he will only follow my counsel. The Bandmaster should see clearly what he wants to accomplish, understand how to bring it to pass, and be determined to have it done.

I ask that all my Bandmasters and their Bandsmen should be good, godly, steady and consistent men. You expect that I should be a true, holy, Godfearing man, don't you? You would not like to have a gossiping, giggling, flirting, conceited man for a General. If you thought I was such you would be ashamed to play your music when I came anywhere near you. Is it too much, then, for me to expect the same character and conduct in you?

I ask that my Bandmasters and Bandsmen should, as far as their abilities and opportunities serve, be soul-saving men. You expect that in me, don't you? When you come to my meetings or hear about me going to any city, no matter where it is, or whether the people to whom I may have to talk be rich or poor, you expect that I shall aim at their souls and try to get them into the Fountain. Do I expect too much if I ask that the same object shall control and influence you?

Your temptation will be to play what is pleasing, what will bring out the music, what will impress

A Stirring Appeal by The Army's First General for Tunes That Bring God and Calvary and Eternity Near

tain if he acts on that principle. They would say, "No, Captain; you must talk from the platform not that which will exhibit your cleverness, nor please the people for the hour, but what will be most likely to save them from sin and hell, make them holy and fill them with love to precious souls." There is not one rule for the Captain and another for the Band. Oh, Bandmaster, you must go on the same lines that you expect from your Captain.

Good and Attractive

The Bandmaster should endeavor to make an efficient Salvation Army Band, one that can play a reasonable number of Salvation Army tunes, so that they will sound good and be attractive and draw people to the open-air meeting and to the Hall.

He will have difficulties. Perhaps his men will not be over-musical—he must hunt for more. They may not be over numerous—he must add to their number. His instruments may not be first-class, or in first-class condition—he must have patience and get good music out of the old things, and the people will be charmed to buy him new ones. Persevere, oh, Bandmaster, there's a better day coming on!

They must not only be able to play a good tune, but the *right* tune. By his music he must make people feel and think about Salvation, long for it, seek after it, and glory in it when they have found it. Let us have good music, but beyond all, music with a message in it. Let us have tunes that bring God and Calvary and Eternity near. Not merely blasting them through as loudly as possible, but with varying cadences, with tenderness and feeling.

The Bandmaster should strive to make his Band assist the singing. He should develop the singing gifts of his Bandsmen. There will certainly be one or two, or more that can solo, others who can sing to-

gether. Mark the hush of attention when the Band starts up to sing.

He should develop all the gifts of his Bandsmen. There must be, nay, we know that there is, a variety of gifts in every Band. All that is wanted is that the Bandmaster should cultivate them. One Bandsman can give his experience in a telling fashion, another sing a solo, another give an exhortation, another has the gift of public prayer, while another can write a report. Only think what such a Band could do in the open-air meeting, in the prayer meeting, or when visiting other Corps.

Now, Bandmasters, I am on your side. I am for the happiness, and Holiness, and heavenly-mindedness of every member of your Band, every inhabitant of their towns, and every man, woman, and child in the wide, wide world. Will you be on my side and help me to spread Salvation? If so, reckon on your General!

He made the people listen, hear and sing:

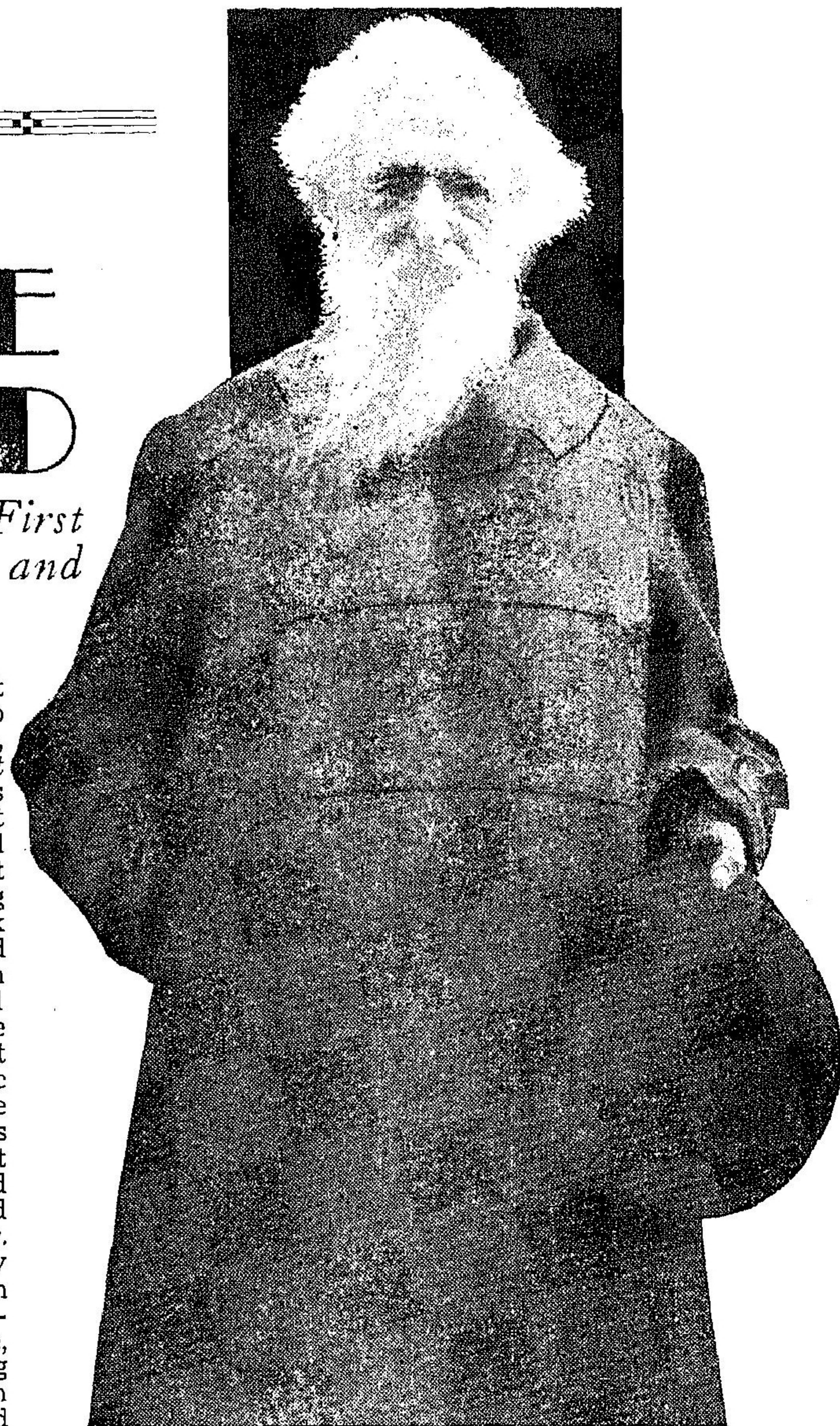
*And now, hallelujah, the rest of my days
Shall gladly be spent in promoting His praise,
Who opened His bosom to pour out this sea
Of boundless Salvation for you and for me.*

This song is a universal favorite among Salvationists, and it is safe

This article begins a new series entitled
"Songs and Their Stories"
Watch for these informative song-descriptions

to say that thousands have been brought to a state of Salvation through its inspiring lines. Evangeline Booth, the Founder's daughter (and The Army's fourth General), pays a striking tribute to the song under discussion. She says,
"Who can sing 'O Boundless Sal-

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THE ARMY'S No. 1 SONG

First in The Army Song Book and, doubtless, first in the hearts of Salvationists the world over, is the faith-lifting, soul-inspiring song, "O Boundless Salvation." As is well known, this song is a composition of The Army's Founder and first General, William Booth. We give below some circumstances surrounding its composition, related by the late Commissioner T. H. Kitching, who for many years was associated with the Founder.

IHAD only a few months before been appointed as Secretary to the Founder. We had had a long day at the desk in his own home at Hadley Wood (near London), working away at the manuscript of a book of regulations which was engrossing his close attention morning, noon and night. I confess I was beginning to rejoice, when the clock hand drew near the hour of nine, at the thought that it would so soon be bedtime, when a lad arrived from the city, bringing me a message from the Chief of the Staff that he would be working in his office at Headquarters all night, and thither I must proceed by the first train to help him. "Off you go!" said the General; "I'll expect you back in the morning by the first train."

Six o'clock the next morning found me letting myself in at the General's door with the latch-key, intending to go at once to my room and get a couple of hours' sleep before the General was ready for breakfast, and another day's work. Quietly I closed the door, and approached the foot of the stairs, when I noticed through the jar of the General's study door that a light was burning within.

"Hello! Who can be there at this time of day?" I asked myself. "Has the housekeeper forgotten to put out the lights, or is it a burglar?"

Stealthily I pushed the door open a little wider, and it creaked upon its hinges; a voice from within ac-

costed me with: "Oh, here you are at last! What an age you've been! What a chap you are! I've been waiting for you ever so long!"

"What, General!" I exclaimed; "are you up already?"

"Up?" came the rejoinder; "I've not been to bed yet. The Chief and you are not the only two men who have been working all night!"

"Whatever have you been doing, General?" I inquired.

For reply he handed me a number of loose sheets of paper covered with his handwriting, saying: "This; Read it and tell me what you think of it." Each sheet contained four lines of verse — thought out, composed, and transcribed to paper during those night hours. It was the song which is known to all Salvationists the world over—"O Boundless Salvation."

First Appearance

The first appearance of the song was in The War Cry. It quickly "took on," and soon winged its flight north, south, east and west. There was not a language which The Army uses to carry its message of deliverance but had its version of the General's song in a very short time.

How I have loved to stand by his side in gay Paris, in an Alpine village, in the capitals of Scandinavia, under Africa's burning sun, on the theatre stage, and before great crowds of people in the open-air, and hear his own voice line it out.

**"SALVATION
MUSIC
is the
MUSIC FOR ME"**
—The Founder

the people with its charm and with the ability of those who produce it. In like manner the Captain's temptation is to preach what is liked by the Corps, what will show up his own abilities, take their fancy, tickle their ears, win their applause. But the Band will despise the Cap-