

### THE WAYSIDE PULPIT

If any man seemeth to be religious and bridleth not his tongue, this man's religion is vain.

#### Charles Frank Russell

Charles Frank Russell, who died in Boston, November 10, 1921, was for nearly forty years a devoted Unitarian minister. He was born in 1848 in the little village of Parish, N.Y., where his father was a prosperous country merchant. The boy went to the village schools and for some years to a boarding-school, and then, before he was twenty, he entered business and for quite a period of time was engaged in various commercial pursuits in the Middle West. At the beginning of the 70's he came to Chicago, a young married man with two little sons. It was the time when Robert Collyer was at the height of his power as minister of the Unity Church. The young man's religious thought had been slowly crystalizing into a liberal form. It is said that a sermon of Collyer's, "How Enoch Walked with God," made so deep an impression on him that he was finally settled in mind and heart as a Unitarian. His work, as one of the interested young men in the church, his services with the relief activities after the great fire, and the strong personal influence of Collyer, all tended to increase his interest in Unitarian religion and finally to bring him to a sense that his vocation was the ministry.

He was now a man of thirty, with family responsibilities. He entered the Meadville Theological School, remaining there only one year; then, feeling the need of a wider field of study, he came to the Harvard Divinity School, where he was able to take courses in Harvard College as well. Among his intimate friends then studying in the School were Price Collier, Julian Jaynes, Charles E. St. John, Theodore C. Williams. This intimacy continued through life.

During one year at the School he acted as minister of the church in Bedford, Mass. Then, on November 16, 1882, he was ordained and became minister of the First Parish in Weston. With his family he occupied the parsonage and continued his work at the Divinity School, receiving his degree of S.T.B. in June, 1884. Until 1916, a period of thirty-two years, he was the devoted and well-beloved minister of the Weston parish. Upon his resignation, he was made pastor emeritus.

For many years he was prominent in denominational affairs, being at different times a director of the American Unitarian Association, and interested in a number of other denominational organizations. Twice did he receive calls to other fields of service—once to be the associate of his friend Theodore Williams at All Souls Church in New York, and again to become the field agent of the American Unitarian Association in New England, but each time the Weston people rose in their loyalty and affection and persuaded him to stay with them. This interest in denominational affairs, though it became

naturally less active as time went on, never disappeared. He was ever ready to serve the cause. Thus, in the winter of 1917-18 he was a teacher in the Pacific Theological School at Berkeley, Calif.; and in the winter of 1918-19, when he was settling down for some months of rest in Boston, he was asked to serve the church in Richmond, Va., whose minister was overseas, and went there at once, entering into the work with enthusiasm and preaching not only at Richmond but on Sunday afternoons at Highland Springs.

A few years after his settlement in Weston his wife died. In 1898 he married Miss Mary Otis Rogers of Boston, who survives him, as well as his children of the first marriage, two sons, and a daughter, Mrs. Ernest G. Adams.

Mr. Russell's interests were extraordinarily varied. Literature, art, music, nature, — what might be called the humanities, — in these his soul took delight. He was a wide reader, though not a student in the strict sense of that word, but a reader who was on intimate terms with the best in literature. His esthetic sense was strongly developed, as could be inferred from the beautiful church built under his leadership in Weston: from the deep love that he had for music and keen appreciation of it; and from the joy that he found in gardening, which for many years was his principal avocation. Whoever has seen him among his peonies, phlox, or delphinium, will realize how strong an influence this love of the beautiful in nature exerted on his life.

Always, however, the first interest of his life was the ministry of religion. Through the thirty years of his work in Weston he developed a standard of worshipfulness, of friendliness, and of true religion which gives to the Weston church, even to-day, an atmosphere of its own. He was keenly interested in the ministry of the younger men of our fellowship, and their plans and work were always dear to his heart. Within a few hours of his death he was talking with one of these younger men and expressing his faith in them and in the future of their work, and finally said, "I feel that now I may say, 'Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace.'" Death came to him swiftly and peacefully as he sat with his wife, the un-failing helpmeet and companion of twenty-three years. On Sunday, November 13, in the church at Weston, which he loved and served so well, services were conducted by Rev. Francis G. Peabody, and his body was laid in the town cemetery.

Mr. Russell's life was not eventful in the sense of great achievements on the surface. Who shall say that it was not eventful in its influence upon other lives touched by his devotion, his sincerity, and his faith? No man can minister to one community for thirty years without producing results in human character. As Mr. Russell cultivated his garden and made it bring forth beauty, so he cultivated his parish, and the fruits of beauty and truth and love are clearly evident in the life of Weston. P. P.

Even as the roots shut in the darksome earth,  
Share in the tree-tops' joyance, and conceive  
Of sunshine and wide air and winged things  
By sympathy of nature, so do I  
Have evidence of Thee so far above,  
Yet in and of me! —J. R. Lowell.

### American Unitarian Association

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The regular meeting of the board of directors of the American Unitarian Association was held at 25 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass., on Tuesday, December 13, 1921, at 2 p.m.

Present: Messrs. Bates, Blinn, Cornish, S. A. Eliot, F. M. Eliot, Fisher, Park, Reese, Richardson, Robertson, Simons, Thayer, Williams, Miss Bancroft, Mrs. Dewey, and Miss Lowell.

The records of the last meeting were read and approved.

The president reported concerning the action taken by the officers under the votes adopted at the November meeting.

The treasurer presented the following statement for the month of November:—

RECEIPTS	
Cash on hand November 1, 1921.....	\$2,503.12
From donations.....	1,105.29
Bequest of Charles W. Cook of Boston, Mass., to create the Charles W. Cook Fund, on account.....	300.00
Bequest of Mrs. Caroline F. Sanborn of Brookline, Mass., to create the Caroline F. Sanborn Fund.....	1,000.00

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