

Eusebia Home Coming Program.



Hon. S. O. Houston, Chairman of Committee on Program.

THE POWER OF THE COMMONPLACE REV. HUGH A. CRESWELL

Exodus 4:1-5

When God needed a man for the task which proved to be the greatest human accomplishment of the age, that of leading His chosen people out of bondage, Moses was the one He selected. Moses felt his limitations and insufficiency for such a task, and like many of the rest of us, not willing to do even his best with what qualifications he did have, he began to make excuses. Among the several excuses he made, one was that the people would not believe him nor pay any attention to what he had to say to them. Then Jehovah said to him, "What is that in thy hand?" Moses answered that it was merely a rod. Then by this incident and others narrated in this same chapter, Moses is shown that what little ability, what few powers and what limited qualifications he did have, could under God's guidance be so transformed and increased that not only would the people accept him as their leader but that he himself would be surprised and wouldn't even recognize the accomplishments as his own.

We are met here today somewhat in memory of the sons and daughters of this old church who have gone out from here to take their places in the world of affairs. Many of them have made enviable records for themselves, being recognized as leaders in their respective lines. They have been a success even as the world designates success. Some of them have gone on to their reward on the other side, while others are still in the heat of the battle of active life. In thinking today of those who have made their mark in the more public places of life, I wonder if any of the rest of us are inclined to feel that because we have not done as well, we have been a failure. Since we have not the ability to do what we have so much admired in others, I wonder if we are inclined to feel that there isn't much that we can do after all, that our lives are sort of hum drum useless things. In the face of any such feelings on the part of any of us today, let us look at the ex-

perience of Moses and take courage and a new lease on life.

When God has a task to be accomplished today, He selects His man or His woman to do it. They are not always the ones with the best training, the finest equipment or the greatest number of natural gifts. But He selects the ones who are capable of development, and who are willing to be used wherever He wants them in the carrying out of His purposes, whether for the tasks that seem menial and lowly, or the ones which the world calls great. They are all important and necessary in His sight.

When Moses was asked what was in his hand, he replied that it was a rod, just an ordinary crooked stick fashioned in such a way as to be useful in protecting his sheep and helping them along when they needed assistance. There was nothing out of the ordinary, nothing specially noteworthy



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about that rod. But God showed him that with proper use it might be so transformed as to be, not only an evidence to other people of God's power, but that it could be so greatly used that he wouldn't recognize it as his simple rod, and that if not rightly used he might well be afraid of it. This plain insignificant rod in the hands of a consecrated Moses was to be used many many times in the future in helping him accomplish service of which his people were in great need.

What is that in the hand or in the possession of each and every one of us today? May be something we think as ordinary and unimportant as that rod seemed to Moses, but likewise under God's guidance they may be greatly transformed for His service. It may be a voice, it may be a capacity for