

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

By ROBERT D. KALIS

A NATIVE TRIBESMAN in outlandish costume appeared one day on the streets of a large Indian city. Rev. E. P. Scott was laboring there at the time as a missionary. After earnest inquiry, he discovered that the native was from a ferocious mountain tribe which rarely came to the city.

The missionary felt the challenge, and after much prayer for guidance, he packed a few meager provisions with his violin and started toward the tribe. After two days of uneventful travel, Rev. Scott was startled by the sudden appearance of a party of warriors from the very tribe he sought. They surrounded him and pointed their spears at his heart.

Thinking that the end had come, Scott lifted his heart to God in prayer and reached for his violin. With tightly closed eyes he played his instrument and sang *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*. When he came to the stanza, *Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe*, he cautiously opened his eyes. To his astonishment the spears were withdrawn, and several of the natives stood before him weeping. For the next two and one half years Scott lived with them, teaching them the way of salvation. When poor health forced him to take a furlough, the natives followed him nearly forty miles, entreating

him to return to them soon. This he did, spending the last days of his life with the people whose hearts had been opened by *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*.

The author of this hymn, Edward Perronet (1726-1792), would probably have fallen into obscurity were it not for this masterpiece. It ranks with the very best hymns of the English language and has been referred to as the most triumphant of the English hymns. In beautiful biblical phrases: angels, seraphs, stars, martyrs, chosen seed, sinners, and all mankind are enjoined to *crown Him Lord of all*. An astute editor, Rev. John Rippon, brought the whole procession to a glorious climax by adding the last stanza:

*Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall;
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.*

The father of the author, Rev. Vincent Perronet, was an esteemed friend of John and Charles Wesley. So highly was he regarded that he became known as the "arch-bishop of Methodism." Little wonder then that his son was soon preaching the gospel with John and Charles Wesley. At Bolton Edward Perronet was rolled in the mud, and stones were thrown and windows broken according to the diary of Charles. Perronet's desire for indepen-

dence from the state church caused him to break with the Wesleys' but they remained friends for life. Taking the oversight of an independent assembly at Canterbury, he fed the flock there for the rest of his days. His last words were, "*Glory to God in the height of His divinity, Glory to God in the depth of His humanity. Glory to God in His all-sufficiency. Into His hands I commend my spirit.*"

The success of "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" is largely due to the ideal music written for it by William Shrubsole, a nineteen-year-old church organist. This tune, known as *Miles Lane*, is still used in England and Canada and appears as a second tune in many American hymnals. So indebted did the author feel to Shrubsole that he left his estate to him and named him as executor of his will.

The American melody, known as *Coronation*, was written in 1793 by Oliver Holden of Charlestown, Massachusetts, a self-taught musician. A verse of the hymn is engraved on his tomb, and a phrase of music the *Miles Lane* tune appeared in the headstone of William Shrubsole.

Though not intended for publication, the first stanza set to *Miles Lane* tune appeared in *Gospel Magazine*, Nov. 1779. By popular demand the entire hymn was published in the Easter issue of the same journal under the title, *On the Resurrection, the Lord is King*.

Bread of Life

Vol. XVII No. 4

April 1968

Published monthly by RIDGEWOOD PENTECOSTAL CHURCH, 457 Harman Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. Editor: Gordon P. Gardiner. Ass't Editor: Caroline Gardiner. Contributing Editor: Hans R. Waldvogel. Art Editor: Eleanor Perz. Circulation Manager: Nancy Strano. Photoengraver: Bingham Photoengraving Co. Printed in the U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Brooklyn, N. Y. Address all correspondence to P.O. Box 11, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11227. Make all subscriptions payable to Henry Wahl, Treasurer. Cover photo by H. Armstrong Roberts
Annual Subscriptions: United States and Canada \$3.00, Foreign \$3.25. Single Copy—25c.