

# The Story Of My Heart

*By*

PHILIP CONE FLETCHER

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*"To leave some simple mark behind,  
To keep my having lived in mind."*

—EDGAR A. GUEST

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THE ALAMO PRINTING COMPANY

SAN ANTONIO

1929

THIS BOOK  
IS  
LOVINGLY DEDICATED  
TO

*“The Little Woman of the Parsonage”  
and to the multiplied thousands of  
beautiful souls to whom I have  
ministered in Virginia, Georgia,  
Arkansas, California, Missouri  
and Texas.*



*C. A. Schuman*

## CHAPTER XXIX

### SAN ANTONIO—"THE PARADISE OF THE PLAINS"

Texas—the "Lone Star State"—is a vast Empire within itself, including no less than 266,000 square miles. Its first white settlement was in 1685.

The four largest things I have ever seen, of their kind, are the Pacific Ocean, Mont Blanc, St. Peter's Cathedral, and Texas.

Texas is five and one-half times the size of New York State, fifty times that of Connecticut, and one hundred and twenty-nine times the size of Delaware, and two hundred and ten times as large as Rhode Island.

Texas is as large as Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Ohio and Illinois all put together and six thousand square miles over.

Texas has 34,000 square miles more than the old Austrian Empire, 62,000 more than the old German Empire, and nearly 70,000 square miles more than France. It is larger than England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Portugal, Greece, and Denmark combined.

It is further from Texarkana to El Paso than it is from Jerusalem to Rome.

If Texas were as densely populated as is Rhode Island, it would have 55,000,000 people within its borders.

Texas has the largest area of arable soil continuous and lying in a single compact body to be found anywhere on the face of the earth.

Texas could sustain more people than now live in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Idaho, Nevada.

Oregon, Washington, and Montana all put together.

"San Antonio — hospitable, historic, eloquent of a storied past—is a name to conjure with".

"The Alamo City"—home of "The Cradle of Texas Liberty"—is immortal in the annals of American history, because here one hundred and eighty-three patriots shed their rich blood, among them Crockett, Travis, and Bowie.

Beautiful, picturesque, romantic, serene San Antonio, how she sits like a queen on her many hills, from which have floated the flags of Spain, France, Mexico, Texas, and the United States.

No wonder San Antonio is "The Mecca of Tourists"—so "delicious" is her climate. The "quaint old town" attracts people from every part of the world, including noted artists who come hither to paint her "immortal Missions" and her "patriotic shrines". Here the intrepid Theodore Roosevelt assembled and trained his army of "Rough Riders" for the Spanish-American War of 1898.

And "modern San Antonio" takes easy rank among the most beautiful and prosperous cities of the Nation. Her sky-scrapers lift their majestic heads to meet the radiant, over-bending sky. Her palm-bedecked avenues and her charming and magnificent homes render the place one of the most attractive of America.

Who that has seen the vast fields of "Blue Bonnets" can ever forget the scene—so resplendent is it with God's glory?

It was a gracious Providence that led the writer to this center of beauty and culture and wealth and pleasure and abundant opportunities for usefulness, in the autumn of 1926. It was on October 27, that Bishop John M. Moore—my good friend of the years—appointed me to the pastorate of the Laurel Heights Methodist Church, one of the leading churches of Texas Methodism, and composed of a delightful and remarkable membership. Here love,

loyalty, consecration, culture, and fineness of soul prevail.

On Sunday morning, November 14, I delivered my salutation, to a congregation that taxed the building to its utmost capacity. I took as my subject "When Life Is Beautiful". The weather was on its "best behavior"—radiant, mellow, and balmy.

Chairman William H. Chambers, of the Official Board, occupied the pulpit with me, and I was most graciously and happily presented to the audience by Mr. W. T. Nesbit, my friend of many years, who was an official of the Central Church, Fayetteville, Arkansas, during my quadrennium there.

I soon found myself surrounded and sustained by a splendid officuary, made up of a large group of prominent citizens, who took high rank in the Church and City. I mention these, because this chapter would be incomplete without their names to illumine its pages: W. H. Chambers, Chairman; Judge S. W. Scott, Vice-Chairman; W. E. Fitch, Secretary-Treasurer; Joe J. Nix, Financial Chairman. I mention the others in alphabetical order: Dick Ansley, Harry T. Ables, Clarence J. Baldwin, Hal Browne, Burt C. Calvin, George D. Campbell, Roy R. Campbell, Randolph L. Carter, Frank M. Coleman, Guy S. Combs, Ross W. Davis, P. A. Gates, Dr. J. F. Haley, J. Taylor Hamner, J. Gunter Hardie, C. W. Harral, W. H. Hearne, Marvin C. Hill, R. O. Holleron, Garland V. Jackson, James Kapp, Dr. G. N. Keeling, Winchester Kelso, W. H. Killingsworth, Mrs. John W. Kokernot, David W. Light, G. Bedell Moore, Henry Mueller, Robert M. McFarlin, F. M. McGlasson, J. Hood McGehee, W. T. Nesbit, George W. Parish, W. Y. Penn, T. J. Pierce, Ed Rand, Fletcher B. Ricks, Dr. G. P. Robertson, Roy Smith, S. W. Smith, Dr. S. L. Stallings, Dr. C. H. Steele, Dr. James S. Steele, Dick O. Terrell, W. E. Thompson, T. M.

West, V. M. West, Homer E. Walker, John D. Wheeler, Jess F. Wolfe, C. C. Williams, J. Sidney Young.

During my administration—and this chapter is being written in the middle of my third year—I have added to the Board the following fine men and women: O. D. Douglas, Fred W. Frost, Samuel L. Kone, B. O. McCreless, E. J. Koenig, Dr. J. G. Baldwin, A. M. Pate, John N. Battle, W. E. Nicholas, Mrs. Henry George, Mrs. E. G. Banks, Mrs. A. J. Parker, Mrs. W. H. Chambers, Dr. P. I. Nixon, L. T. Powell, L. E. Fite, A. H. Cadwallader, Jr., and L. H. Duncan.

Surely, with such leaders, Laurel Heights Church should be almost invincible, as she goes forth to "battle" and achieve in the name of an Omnipotent God and a Triumphant Christ.

Laurel Heights Church, though one of the young organizations of Texas Methodism, has made a most remarkable record in two decades, and now takes high rank, because of her noble spirit and good works.

Rev. J. D. Young founded the Church on November 24, 1909, with 37 "charter members". The cornerstone of the present handsome temple of worship, at West Woodlawn Avenue and Belknap Place, was laid on June 23, 1911, by Bishop Edwin D. Mouzon. The first service held in the new structure was on Easter morning, April 7, 1912, at which time Bishop Joseph S. Key delivered the sermon. So vital was the interest of Judge and Mrs. J. O. Terrell in the matter of establishing the new organization, that they are regarded as the "lay-founders", and a bronze tablet so indicates. And he became the first chairman of the Official Board.

Rev. Cullom H. Booth, D. D., succeeded Mr. Young in the autumn of 1912. He had two highly constructive years, and under his rich leadership the membership was greatly increased. They were difficult years, for all new

organizations have to pass through the "testing period". After serving a number of strong churches, such as Austin Avenue Church, Waco, Dr. Booth was assigned to the presiding eldership of the Fort Worth District, in the fall of 1927. He is a man of strength and personal charm.

Rev. J. W. Hill, D. D., became pastor in the autumn of 1914, and served one year. He was a minister of fine ability and noble character, and he gave to Methodism an active ministry of forty-six years. On July 26, 1920, he was translated.

Rev. O. T. Cooper, D. D., followed Dr. Hill, and wrought with fidelity and success. He has since occupied prominent pulpits. He is at this time the presiding elder of the Dallas District, where he is proving himself a masterful leader of men.

Rev. Felix R. Hill, D. D., came to Laurel Heights Church in the fall of 1916, and it was during his two constructive years that the \$40,000 debt was paid off. He then became presiding elder of the San Antonio District, and then president of Westmoorland College, San Antonio. He is now presiding elder of the Memphis District, where his splendid prowess is in evidence. He is a son of Rev. Dr. Felix R. Hill, Sr., who has for many years been one of the foremost ministers of our Methodism.

Rev. A. Frank Smith, D. D., succeeded Dr. Hill in 1918. He was almost at the end of his great quadrennium when he was transferred to First Church, Houston, to succeed Dr. Sam R. Hay, who had been elected to the Episcopacy by the General Conference of 1922. He is now serving that marvelous church of 4,500 members for his eighth year. Laurel Heights Church loved him and his wife with an almost "worshipful love". His is a beautiful soul, and his host of friends hope—in the Providence of God—that he will be elected to a seat in the College of Bishops.

Rev. S. H. C. Burgin, D. D., LL.D., whom I had the honor to succeed, completed a great quadrennium, during which he received into the church a number of men and women of broad vision and large possessions. I found the church in excellent condition. For four years prior to his coming to Laurel Heights Church, Dr. Burgin had been Secretary of the General Board of Church Extension, with headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky. In former years he had been pastor of Travis Park Church, San Antonio, and presiding elder of the San Antonio District. He is now in his third year as pastor of the great Trinity Church, Miami, Florida. In Mrs. Burgin the church had a leader of brilliant intellect and beautiful ministries.

The first Board of Stewards of the church was composed of Judge J. O. Terrell, Judge Winchester Kelso, Dr. J. L. Felder, I. B. Hollowell, John W. Warren, F. F. Cocke, A. K. Ragsdale, C. E. Hammond, Dr. S. S. Bleakley, Marshall W. Terrell, Ed Rand, C. T. Napier, J. R. Wood, Ross W. Davis and P. J. McNeel. It is always interesting to read the names of men who "do things". History is but "the record of human effort and achievement".

The building committee carried the names of such leaders as Judge J. O. Terrell, A. K. Ragsdale, Judge Winchester Kelso, Mrs. John W. Kokernot, Ed Rand, C. E. Hammond, John W. Warren, Mrs. G. Bedell Moore, Mrs. F. M. Shaw, F. F. Cocke, and Dr. S. S. Bleakley.

Seven able and distinguished men have served Laurel Heights Church as chairmen of the Board of Stewards: Judge J. O. Terrell, Judge Winchester Kelso, Judge John L. Browne, Mr. John L. Kerr, Mr. W. H. Chambers, Judge S. W. Scott, and Attorney Dick O. Terrell.

The Sunday School has had six strong and successful men to preside over its important and delicate work: Mr. W. D. Williams, Dr. W. M. Bourne, Mr. Dick Ansley,

Attorney Hal Browne, Mr. Burt C. Calvin, and the present incumbent, Attorney John D. Wheeler.

The Missionary Society of Laurel Heights Church has done a remarkable work through the years of its existence, and is today one of the leading societies of Texas Methodism. It has had twelve highly gifted women to preside over its body: Mrs. J. D. Young, Mrs. John W. Koker-not, Mrs. Robert L. Ball, Mrs. John L. Browne, Mrs. J. G. Baldwin, Mrs. H. B. Holmes, Mrs. S. W. Scott, Mrs. Winchester Kelso, Sr., Mrs. E. G. Banks, Mrs. J. O. Terrell, Mrs. George W. Parish, and the present incumbent, Mrs. Henry B. Barnes.

What "elect matrons of God". No wonder the work goes forward so splendidly and harmoniously. Mrs. Barnes—gracious, diplomatic, cultured, sweet-spirited—is leading the multitude of women to the altitudes of Christian experience and service. Her splendid co-officials are Mrs. L. H. Duncan, Mrs. Harry Hust, Mrs. George H. Byrnes, Mrs. J. G. Baldwin, Mrs. Clarence J. Baldwin, Mrs. Quest C Couch, Mrs. Robert P. Coon, Mrs. J. A. Oslin, Mrs. J. S. Young, Mrs. L. H. Haring, Mrs. L. H. Browne, Sr., Mrs. P. L. McIntosh, Mrs. W. L. Martin.

"The Bluebirds" organization of Laurel Heights Church is one of the most beautiful and "elite" of San Antonio, if not of Texas Methodism. It is composed of a large number of young matrons of culture and devotion, and these do a remarkable work. Those who have served as presidents are Mrs. Herbert Slayden Clarkson, Mrs. Homer T. Wilson, Mrs. Quest C. Couch, Mrs. O. D. Douglas, Mrs. John D. Wheeler, Mrs. Winchester Kelso, Jr., and Mrs. W. H. McCoach. What a lovely soul is each.

The "Burgin Chapter" of the Epworth League—named in honor of Dr. S. H. C. Burgin—is one of the thriving organizations of the church. Among those who have

with ability and devotion led these young people to the altitudes of Christian experience and service, are Mr. Dick Ansley, Mr. R. Bruce Banks, Mr. Carlos Coon, Dr. Kenneth Ragsdale, Miss Lucy Banks, Mr. Clarence J. Baldwin, Attorney H. S. Piland and Miss Velma Nicholas. What an inspiration such young men and women are to a church.

Mr. William H. Hearne, one of the leading men of San Antonio—a strong, progressive, splendid citizen—is the Church Lay Leader, and as such he is one of the most useful laymen I have ever known. He is also a Steward, Superintendent of the Young People's Department, and teacher of the great "Victory Class".

Attorney John D. Wheeler is leading the young life of the church to what is highest and best in the Christian service. He is one of "God's elect". His rich brain and heart render him a wise and devoted leader. He is a son of the late Lieutenant-Governor Thomas Benton Wheeler, one of the strong and unique characters of Texas. His cultured and saintly mother, Mrs. Ida D. Wheeler, is one of our beautiful "shut-ins", and his gifted aunt, Mrs. Fannie D. Wilson, is one of our most devoted and useful women. Mr. Wheeler married Miss Georgie Fisher, a daughter of the distinguished Rev. Dr. Sterling Fisher, who has for 38 years been the secretary of the West Texas Conference.

Mr. B. O. McCreless—fine, loyal, devoted, efficient, and a leading business man of the city—is Mr. Wheeler's able associate-superintendent. They are affectionately referred to as "Twins", because one is tall, slender and "judicial", and the other is large, fat, round, and genial.

Mr. Wheeler and Mr. McCreless are fortunate in their departmental superintendents—Mr. W. H. Hearne, Mr. C. J. Baldwin, Mrs. H. A. Long, Mrs. George W. Parish, Mrs. A. P. Ford, Miss Lucy Banks, Mrs. A. M. Pate,

Mrs. T. J. Pierce and Mrs. John B. Andrews. Miss Frances Banks is the gifted Secretary-Treasurer. Mrs. Kate G. Higgins is the efficient Enrolling Secretary. In the Adult Department, Mr. Randolph L. Carter teaches the great "Laurel Class" of young women, of which Mrs. Robert W. Barr is the president. Mr. P. A. Gates teaches the "Business Men's Bible Class", of which Mr. George W. Parish is the president. Mrs. L. W. Chick teaches the fine "Women's Wesley Bible Class", which Mrs. Clifford Crowell presides over as president.

Mr. Joe J. Nix, the Financial Chairman, takes easy rank among the leading business men of San Antonio. He is related in a vital way to enterprises which represent multiplied millions of dollars. He is greatly beloved because of his warm heart, sincere soul, fine poise, and personal charm. God must have "big men" if His kingdom would do big things.

Mr. W. E. Fitch, for several years the strong and popular secretary-treasurer, is one of San Antonio's leading citizens, he being a member of the large insurance firm of Fitch-Chadwick and Company. For many years he was prominent in railroad circles. He comes of one of the oldest and best families of Texas. In character and achievements, he has made for himself an honorable name.

Professor David L. Ormsher, a native of Manchester, England, and the son of a Wesleyan Methodist minister, has for several years been the splendid director of the Laurel Heights Church Vested Choir, which takes easy rank with the best of the city and State. He is prominent in musical circles.

Professor Roy Repass, head of the department of music of Westmoorland College, has for nearly ten years presided at the organ. He is a skilled musician and a gentleman of gracious manners. He is a son of the late distinguished Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Repass, who was for

years connected with Tennessee and Texas Methodism.

Mrs. A. B. Hardin—lovely in soul and voice—is recognized as one of San Antonio's leading directors and soloists. She has for some months been the leading soprano and official soloist of the choir. She delights the hundreds who sit in the pews.

No two men connected with the church have done more, or are doing more, to bless the young life of the community than Mr. C. J. Baldwin and Mr. E. J. Koenig—the one at the head of the athletic activities, and the other the leader of the Boy Scout movement.

It was in the spring of 1927, that the Official Board unanimously, adopted a resolution to the effect that, inasmuch as the church had outgrown its material equipment, it was the part of wisdom and devotion that an adequate educational building be enterprised. In less than six weeks a well organized campaign for "funds" was under way, headed by Mr. Frank M. Coleman. By September of the same year, the actual building program was under way, and by February of 1928, the handsome structure was ready for occupancy. The magnificent fire-proof, up-to-date building, four stories high, including a beautiful roof-garden, overlooking the city, has now been in use over a year and has revolutionized the work of the church in all of its departments. The temple of worship was also remodeled inside and out, making the auditorium one of the loveliest in the city. The total cost of the building program was \$175,000.

It is but fair that posterity should have the names of the noble, unselfish men and women who took the lead in this worthy "kingdom enterprise". The building committee was composed of R. O. Holleron, chairman; Burt C. Calvin, vice-chairman; Dick O. Terrell, treasurer; Mrs. George W. Parish, secretary; W. H. Chambers, chairman of the plans committee; Joe J. Nix, W. H. Hearne, John

D. Wheeler, and Mrs. O. D. Douglas. Due to the enforced absence of Mr. Holleron part of the time, Mr. Calvin watched the great structure day and night as it went up, thus rendering the committee and the church he loved a valuable service.

"The Bluebirds" gave the first \$1,000 in cash, Mrs. O. D. Douglas, the president, "starting the ball to rolling". So the exquisitely beautiful "Bluebird Room" carries a bronze tablet which gives the officers of the organization in 1927: Mrs. O. D. Douglas, Mrs. W. H. McCoach, Mrs. J. T. Haile, Mrs. John D. Wheeler, Mrs. Clarence J. Baldwin, Mrs. William A. Turner, Mrs. T. H. Sharp.

A bronze tablet also marks the lovely assembly-room of the second floor of the Educational Building, which room is dedicated to the Woman's Missionary Society, and carries the names of the officers of this society who served during 1926-1927: Mrs. George W. Parish, Mrs. Ross W. Davis, Mrs. T. M. West, Mrs. Clifford Crowell, Mrs. Roy Smith, Mrs. Clarence J. Baldwin, Mrs. T. J. Pierce, Mrs. E. G. Banks, Mrs. Charles H. Steele, Mrs. W. W. Creswell, Mrs. Joe L. Hill, Mrs. Dick Ansley, Mrs. John L. Browne, Mrs. Will P. Shepherd, Mrs. C. W. Harral, Mrs. F. L. Carson, Mrs. Edward McKenzie, Mrs. H. A. Cartwright.

The first \$10,000 given to the new building was a gift from Mr. and Mrs. James Kapp—beautiful souls—and the large assembly-room on the first floor, is marked by a bronze tablet, saying: "This room is dedicated to Mr. and Mrs. James Kapp, beloved members of this Church, whose generosity greatly aided in the erection of this building".

The exquisitely beautiful parlors carry a bronze tablet, which says: "This room is dedicated to the memory of C. E. Hammond, one of the charter officials, and to Mrs. Mary Hammond Calvin, by Mrs. C. E. Hammond,

Homer H. Hammond and Burt C. Calvin". They were among the most generous contributors to the new structure.

The lovely beginners' department was made possible by the liberality of Attorney and Mrs. Randolph L. Carter and Mrs. John W. Kokernot, and the bronze tablet that marks the room bears the words: "This room is lovingly dedicated to the memory of Mary Ella Carter—1923-1928—by her parents, Randolph and Muriel Carter and her grandmother, Mary Harper Kokernot". It was on February 14, 1928, that the precious four year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carter slipped away, leaving their hearts in unspeakable grief.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert M. McFarlin are noble souls, indeed—strong, modest, genuine, kind, gentle, blessed. God has bountifully enriched them, and they, in turn, have enriched multiplied thousands by means of their benefactions—such as "McFarlin Auditorium" of Southern Methodist University, Dallas; "McFarlin Methodist Church", Norman, Oklahoma—a memorial to their baby; "Mary Catherine Hall" of Westmoorland College, San Antonio—a memorial to Mrs. Mary Catherine Barnard, Mrs. McFarlin's mother; "McFarlin Dormitory" of Wesleyan Institute, San Antonio. On the bronze tablet of the spacious and up-to-date recreational hall of the Laurel Heights Educational Building, are the words: "Dedicated to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. McFarlin, who contributed largely toward the erection of this building". Thus through these "love-gifts"—to say nothing of others—these golden-hearted folk have given more than \$1,500,-000 to make a better world and a happier race.

The remodeled tower was named the "Moore Memorial Tower", in honor of the late Mrs. G. Bedell Moore, for years one of the consecrated and generous souls of the church. In her last will and testament, she bequeathed to the church a handsome legacy.

On May 19, 1928, Laurel Heights Church was plunged into a great grief, due to the sudden death, in Austin, of Mr. William H. Chambers, who had for five and a half years been the chairman of the Board of Stewards. He had become a resident of San Antonio, in 1907, and had found his way into the love and esteem of thousands of people. He was born in Kansas City, Missouri, on July 8, 1871. He was a son of Mr. and Mrs. George E. Chambers, who were stanch Methodists for many years, and leaders in their church. He was married on July 15, 1891—at the age of twenty—to the lovely and popular Miss Clara Mahone. They had been sweethearts from childhood. For thirty-seven years they walked together in a beautiful and understanding love. He was prominently connected with the public life of the city, and promoted such big enterprises as the "Mission Burial Park" and the "Beacon Hill Addition". He was one of the leaders in establishing the "Methodist Encampment" at Kerrville. He was a Scottish Rite Mason, a Knights Templar and a Rotarian. He was for years a trustee of Westmoorland College. He and Bishop William A. Quayle were devoted friends for a quarter of a century. He was a man of beautiful soul—genial, generous, gracious, unselfish, kind, brotherly, lovable. His funeral was held from the church and was attended by a concourse of people. Rev. Dr. S. H. C. Burgin, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, Miami, Florida—a lifelong friend of the family—delivered an eloquent funeral tribute. Dr. Paul B. Kern of Travis Park Church and Dr. John W. Darby of the Central Christian Church, assisted in the impressive service. The entire official board, headed by Judge S. W. Scott, who succeeded Mr. Chambers to the chairmanship of the Board of Stewards, and Attorney Dick O. Terrell, chairman of the Board of Trustees, attended in a body. The full vested choir, under the direction of Professor David I. Ormesher,

with Professor Roy Repass at the organ, rendered the music. I was just pulling back from a major operation and was yet too ill to be informed of the death of my good friend and chief official, so he had been "gone" for three days before the news was broken to me. He was survived by his wife and two queenly daughters—Mrs. Fred J. Tips and Mrs. Craig J. Adams. I loved him because of his bigness of heart, his freedom from the petty hates and spites and utterances, which so mar the beauty of character, and because of his fidelity to the Kingdom and his goodness to me.

Two other splendid and distinguished members of the Official Board have ascended since my pastorate of the church began—Mr. V. M. West and Mr. George D. Campbell.

On January 20, 1927, Mr. West died, as the result of an automobile accident some weeks before. He was a unique character—rugged, original, heroic. He was born in Mississippi and came to Texas in 1879. He was prominent for years as a large dealer in cattle. In his latter years he was also prominent in church circles, and seldom missed a General Conference, where he was affectionately called "Bishop West". His funeral was held from the church he so loved, Rev. Dr. Thomas F. Sessions, Dr. Paul B. Kern and the writer officiating. He was survived by his wife; also by three sons and three daughters—Attorney T. M. West of San Antonio; Mr. W. F. West of Brackettville, Texas; Mr. E. J. West of New York; Mrs. Sue Hopkins of New York; Mrs. Anna West Burnett of Austin; and Miss Ida Bess West of San Antonio. He died at the age of seventy-eight.

The death of Mr. Campbell was tragic and threw a shadow over the entire city. His automobile—on the morning of March 18, 1929—plunged through the iron railing, back of the Municipal Auditorium, and into the

San Antonio River. He was dead when rescuers reached him. He was one of the leading citizens of the State. He had served as State Bank Examiner, president of the Guaranty State Bank of San Antonio, and at the time of his death he was chairman of the board of directors of the same bank; also a director and treasurer of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce. He was a native of Vermont. His funeral was one of the most largely attended in the history of San Antonio. The services were conducted by the writer, Rev. Dr. T. F. Sessions, and Dr. J. M. Tood. He was a Scottish Rite Mason and a member of the Mystic Shrine. He was survived by his wife, and one daughter—Mrs. George Holden of San Antonio. He was a man of big heart, generous soul, and fine integrity.

Rev. Edward McKenzie, nationally famous as a musical director and song-leader—a man of beautiful soul, pronounced gifts, noble life, and great usefulness—was an honored local minister of Laurel Heights Church for years. We soon became warm friends. For many years he swept over the Nation, leading the singing in great evangelistic campaigns of such master-soul-savers as Rev. Sam P. Jones, Dr. George R. Stuart, Rev. Gipsy Smith, Dr. Walt Holcomb, Rev. Bob Jones and Rev. Frank Wright. He was born on October 30, 1868, married on September 29, 1910, to Miss Mary Alice Schaeffer, and died on August 4, 1928.

Thus "the sands of life" run out and mankind sweeps on toward the eternal world, leaving "foot-prints" upon the shores of Time. The mystery of it all!

Mr. Dick O. Terrell, the present chairman of the Laurel Heights Board of Stewards, is one of the leading lawyers of Texas, and is a member of the legal firm of Terrell, Davis, Huff and McMillan. He is a man of fine intellect, remarkable poise, noble character, and able leadership. He is a son of the late Judge J. O. Terrell,

and of Mrs. Terrell, who is one of our most beloved women. With him in the law firm is his kingly brother, Mr. Marshall W. Terrell, whose great brain and heart enrich all who are fortunate enough to come in close touch with his majestic character.

Judge S. W. Scott, the present chairman of the Board of Trustees, is a princely gentleman, and a most devoted churchman. He has had a large part in making Laurel Heights Church the great Church that she is today. His character is without a blemish; his sincerity is unquestioned; and his splendid leadership is acknowledged. He belongs to important boards and commissions of Texas and Southern Methodism.

Attorney Randolph L. Carter, vice chairman of the Board of Stewards, is one of the prominent lawyers of San Antonio. He is a man of beautiful soul and noble life. For years he has been one of the leading spirits of the church.

Mr. Marvin C. Hill—named after Bishop Enoch M. Marvin—is vice financial chairman. He is a man of strength, radiance and devotion. He is one of the leading business men of the city, being president of the Alamo Printing Company.

Rev. Dr. J. M. Alexander—for many years one of the great leaders of Texas Methodism—upon his retirement from active service, became a resident of San Antonio, and he and his cultured wife enrich Laurel Heights Church with their love and helpfulness. He is one of "God's elect"—tall, handsome, noble, sane, genuine, and free from any semblance of "touchousness". His life is a benediction and his love a benefaction. She has the grace of a queen and the face of a Madonna.

During my San Antonio ministry I have been delightfully associated with a number of the fine ministers of the West Texas Conference, who have served the other twelve

Methodist churches of "The Alamo City"—Dr. Paul B. Kern, Dr. J. T. Curry, Rev. H. M. Smith, Rev. J. W. Rowland, Rev. W. E. Fisher, Rev. A. E. Rector, Rev. C. L. Browning, Rev. J. O. Manning, Rev. J. M. Perry, Rev. W. H. Patrick, Rev. A. W. Wilson, Rev. J. W. Long, Rev. W. M. Lane, Rev. J. B. Horton, Rev. Joe F. Webb, Rev. H. W. Bennett, Rev. A. T. White, Rev. W. P. Buckner, Rev. O. W. Nail, Rev. A. F. Thomas, Rev. R. A. Taylor, Rev. H. S. Goodenough. And then another group, including Dr. T. F. Sessions, of the San Antonio District: Rev. J. K. Beery, Religious Work Secretary of the Y. M. C. A.; Rev. J. L. Bryant, my Arkansas friend of other years; Dr. Frank S. Onderdonk, superintendent of the Texas Mexican Mission, and Rev. T. Bolton Boone, field Secretary of the Epworth League.

Rev. Paul B. Kern, A. B., M. A., B. D., D.D.—whom I have known since we were boys in Virginia—is my esteemed colleague at the Travis Park Church, where he succeeded Rev. Dr. Arthur J. Moore—now of First Church, Birmingham—in the autumn of 1926. His father—who was one of the ripest scholars and sanest saints of American Methodism—was my mother's pastor when he was a young preacher, and he was my theological instructor when I was a student in Randolph-Macon College. He is one of the ablest and soundest gospel preachers I have ever heard. He came to San Antonio from Southern Methodist University, where he was Dean of the Theological Department for eleven years. He is leading that great church to still higher altitudes, and preaching to vast audiences.

Westmoorland College is charmingly located in San Antonio, where beauty of scenery, mellowness of climate and good health attract people from every section of the Nation. Rev. Edward Rosemond Stanford, A. B., M. A., B. D., D. D., is the scholarly and popular president. Under

his splendid leadership the institution has gone forward by leaps and bounds, until now it takes high rank among the colleges of Texas. Four Laurel Heights Church members belong to the board of trustees—Attorney Dick O. Terrell, chairman; Mrs. R. M. McFarlin, Mr. O. D. Douglas and Mr. Joe J. Nix. I had the honor to succeed Dr. S. H. C. Burgin to membership on the directorate. For some years by good friend from Arkansas—Rev. Robert L. Armor—was the vice-president and business manager. Rev. George D. Pickens is the Dean. The college was founded thirty-six years ago by Rev. J. E. Harrison, D. D., assisted by Rev. W. W. Pinson, D. D., and Dr. J. D. Scott. The second president was Rev. Dr. Joseph W. Repass, and he was succeeded by Rev. Dr. Felix R. Hill, Jr., and Dr. Hill by Dr. Stanford, a native of Texas, who had served as a chaplain in France during the World War.

Wesleyan Institute is also located in San Antonio. It is a school devoted to the training of Mexican boys, and is under the auspices of the Home Mission Board of Southern Methodism. The president is Mr. W. W. Jackson—strong, versatile, resourceful, heroic, indefatigable—who is accomplishing a great work. He is a son-in-law of Rev. O. E. Goddard, D. D., Foreign Mission Secretary of Southern Methodism.

The "Wesley House", which is devoted to the laudable work of looking after hundreds of Mexican children, in the Mexican District of San Antonio, had as its president for years Mrs. Jes F. Wolfe, one of the leading women of Laurel Heights Church. At present three other highly gifted women of the same church are on the board of directors—Mrs. L. C. Wiggins, Mrs. J. M. Alexander and Mrs. E. J. Koenig.

The "Mission Home and Training School" is another Methodist Institution, located in San Antonio, which is

doing a remarkable work in behalf of the "disadvantaged" young women of the city. It is under the auspices of the West Texas Conference and the Central Texas Conference. At present it has on its board three Laurel Heights Church members—Judge Claude J. Carter, Mr. Frank M. Coleman and Mrs. S. W. Scott. For some years the devoted and gifted matron has been Mrs. R. L. Culbertson.

During my pastorate of the Laurel Heights Church, Mrs. Besse W. Cross, wife of the late Rev. Dr. Charles B. Cross—who ministered for years in Missouri, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas—has been the Executive Secretary and assistant Treasurer. She is a woman of decided culture of head and heart, and having been a minister's wife, she understands many of the delicate issues of church-life. She has traveled extensively in America, Canada, Mexico and the Old World. She has a fine son and lovely daughter—Harvey and Miss Mildred.

Miss Helen G. Humphrey, who was for six years the General Secretary of the First Methodist Church, Little Rock, is my assistant at the Laurel Heights Church. In her quiet, but telling way, she accomplishes large results.

The Church is moving forward with steady strides. Hundreds are being received into membership. A most beautiful harmony prevails. Every demand made upon the Church by Connectional Methodism, is met with generosity and promptness. In 1927, the membership paid, on an average of \$80 per capita. Last year the total amount raised for all purposes amounted to \$108,000.

Has the reader ever witnessed a San Antonio sunset? How gorgeous the coloring of the sky! Behold the streaks of fine gold and delicate blues and greys and purples.

Glorious, bewitching San Antonio—radiant with the light of God.

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"The Story of My Heart" is, to use the expression of a

noted American statesman, "up to now".

I am enjoying God's today. I am not afraid of God's tomorrow. Life is sweet to me and my outlook is radiant. I shall go on loving and serving and praying and playing and laughing and looking up at the stars.

After all, what is human life but laughter, deluged with tears?

As I write these concluding lines, I see multiplied thousands of faces as they flit across the "screen of memory"—faces of the more than 800,000 persons to whom I have preached the Gospel of the Christ; faces of the 71,000 persons upon whom I have called; faces of the thousands whom I have received into the Church and upon whose heads I have laid my hands in baptism; faces of yet other thousands whom I have united in marriage; and faces of the hundreds whom I have laid to rest. What a vast multitude!

As I make my goodbye bow to my "invisible audience", I repeat the immortal lines of John Greenleaf Whittier, taken from his "Eternal Goodness", as expressive of my faith and hope and confidence:

"I know not what the future hath  
Of marvel or surprise;  
Assured alone that life and death  
His mercy underlies.

"And if my heart and flesh are weak  
To bear an untried pain,  
The bruised reed He will not break,  
But strengthen and sustain.

"I know not where His islands lift  
Their fronded palms in air;  
I only know I cannot drift  
Beyond His love and care".