

Editor: Your place of business seems to have had a wonderful history. I am particularly interested to hear that such a prominent Irish citizen as the late Mr. James Hutchinson Swanton, J.P., was once owner of the mill.

Mr. Good: That is quite true; and I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Swanton, and early learnt to appreciate his great business capabilities. "Governor" Swanton, as he was locally called, was a man of striking appearance and punctilious habits. It was his custom to rise at 5.30 a.m. and go systematically around his workmen's houses to "knock them up" for their day's work.

Editor: I must confess I am glad I was not in employment at the mill!

Mr. Good: During the "Governor's" residence at Rineen he built several ships in his grounds, to ply between Cork and his various mills along the coast. He regularly held services in his beautiful home. Mrs. Rachel Wolfe, the oldest member of our circuit to-day, once told me that amongst the happiest memories of her childhood were the visits to Mr. Swanton's house, when the Sunday School children were at liberty to pick the fruits in the well-stocked garden. On leaving Rineen, Mr. Swanton went

to reside in Dublin, where he became circuit steward of the Centenary Church, Stephen's Green. He was probably one of the foremost laymen of the Methodist Church; was present to speak and contribute at most of the important Methodist gatherings from 1860; and was included in the Irish representation to the First Oecumenical Conference of World Methodism, held in London, in 1881. A son of Mr. Swanton's was the late Rev. William Swanton, Methodist minister, to whose memory a handsome tablet stands in Skibbereen Church.

Editor: I hear that your father was a notable figure in our church life here.

Mr. Good: He was a class leader and a local preacher. He came to reside at Rineen about 1874. Even previous to this, in 1871, there is a record of his having held a well-attended service in Rosscarbory. From the time he came to Rineen he constantly interested himself in evangelistic work, and himself held monthly meetings in his home. Cornish and Manx fishermen, who at that time were often engaged in fishing for mackerel off our coast, frequently joined in the services at Rineen and Union Hall. They enlivened the worship by their wonderful singing, and some of them even preached. In this connection one anecdote is worth recording. Some of the Manxmen were strolling around the lawn on a Sunday afternoon, when one of them was attacked by rather a vicious dog, belonging to our family, and got his trousers torn badly. My father, who noticed the unfortunate occurrence, immediately rushed to the rescue with a pair of his own trousers, and, ever ready as the good man was to "do all possible good to all men," he seized this opportunity to invite the "rescued" man and his friends to the service about to be held in Union Hall. The invitation was accepted, and the Manxmen thoroughly enjoyed the hour of worship.

John Wesley Listens

"In the evening" (of the 24th May, 1738), writes Wesley, in his famous Journal, "I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's Preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About A QUARTER BEFORE NINE, while he was describing the change which God worketh in the heart through faith in Christ, I FELT MY HEART STRANGELY WARMED. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation: and an assurance was given to me that He had taken away MY sins, even MINE, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

Here are a few sentences from the Preface to Romans which so profoundly affected Wesley's career:—

"True faith is the work of God in us by which we are born

Skibbereen, and a Junior Society and Wesley Guild in Ballydehob, and, in addition, Bible Classes in Skibbereen and Lissacaha. There are Sunday Schools in Skibbereen and Ballydehob, and although the numbers attending them at present are not so large as in the past, the work is being carried on as efficiently as ever and with marked success, five scholars belonging to both schools having this year obtained money prizes in connection with the Connexional Sunday School Examination. Skibbereen, too, has a flourishing company of Girl Guides. Provision is made also for the recreation of our young people, there being badminton and table tennis clubs in Skibbereen, and a table tennis club in Ballydehob.

We are glad to be able to report a growing interest in spiritual things among the young people on the circuit. The present is full of encouragement, we are full of hope for the future. Like John Wesley, we can say, "The best of all is, God is with us."

R. C. RODDIE.



James Hutchinson Swanton, J.P.,
Circuit Steward for about a quarter of
a century, from 1840.