

Levi Pennington

People

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Allen Jay; Barrow and Geraldine Cadbury

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Add Friends I have Known.

ALLEN JAY

Allen Jay was a Quaker statesman. He could handle an evangelistic campaign with all the skill and cleverness of an expert financial money raiser, and could conduct a financial campaign with all the ardor and enthusiasm of the devoted evangelist.

In his personal life he did what anybody could have told you and what doubtless plenty of wise men told him was impossible. When he was born, nature had somehow failed to supply his mouth with a roof, or if you prefer, a ceiling. When the surgeons and dentists had done their best for him, they left plenty of opening between his mouth and his nasal passages, so that his speech was like nothing else in the world, at least like nothing else that I have heard in ninety years. And anybody could tell that whatever else he might do, he could not succeed as a public speaker. Yet he became one of the most notable ministers of his day -- and his day lasted a good many years.

He made his handicap work for him. He paid good heed to the maxim so common among English Friends, "If you have nothing to say, you should avoid giving verbal evidence of the fact." When Allen Jay had nothing to say, he said nothing; his silence was sometimes more effective than some men's oratory.

When he did speak, those who knew him listened carefully, knowing that they would hear something worth while; and those who heard him for the first time had to listen carefully in order to understand him, and soon they were so interested that they forgot, or at least I always did, that he was not speaking just as any other speaker might do so far as pronunciation was concerned. When you knew that "Hrit-shion" was the word "Christian", for the rest of the discourse "Hrit-shion" would do very well, and you'd not notice that it was not pronounced just as you'd pronounce it.

He was a wise counselor in great matters or in matters purely personal. One young unmarried pastor among Friends once asked him once about about a certain young woman in the meeting to which Allen belonged, enquiring as to this young lady's Christian experience, her work in the church and various matters of the sort, and Allen gave an affirmative answer to all the questions, with elaboration as to her effectiveness in the various activities of the meeting. The young man said when his questions were satisfactorily answered, "I'm glad that thee can speak so well of her, Allen, for in my work as a pastor I need a wife, and I am going to ask her to marry me." Allen answered (if you'll ask me to do it when we meet I'll show you how it sounded), "Don't thee ever do it; don't thee ever do it in the world." "Why not?" said the young pastor. "Thee says that she has a good Christian experience, that she works efficiently in every department of the work of the meeting. Why shouldn't I ask her to be my wife?" Allen replied, "The Lord can get along with a woman that thee could not live with for a month."

Allen Jay raised money for many causes. During my work as pastor of South Wabash meeting we built one of the prettiest Friends churches in the United States or elsewhere. There was a good deal to raise at the time of dedication, and Allen came a week in advance and got the bigger pledges that had to be secured before the meeting for the dedication of the building. It was a joy and a good piece of education to go around with him and

He and his judgment on the work of the church were so highly regarded that in North Carolina yearly meeting to which he belonged they referred to him to such an extent that practically no action was taken without his approval. He considered this state of affairs not good for the yearly meeting, so for him, as he left North Carolina for the much greater Indiana Yearly Meeting, when he would have been in church.

see him get \$500 from a man who had thought of \$100 as about his limit. At the dedication service enough was raised to complete the entire payment for the building. And this was the sort of thing that Allen Jay could do and did do for many churches and other causes.

He was the most effective money raiser for Earlham College for more than one generation. It was in the days when John D. Rockefeller, Sr., had offered a million dollars to the Baptist Church for its foreign work, and Washington Gladden urged that the church refuse the gift because it was "tainted money" -- Mr. Gladden did not approve of some of the business methods of the Standard Oil Company. People sometimes asked Allen ~~what he would do~~ what he would do if he was offered some of the "tainted money", and he had two replies; one was "I wou'd't smell of it" (I wouldn't smell of it) and the other was "I'n uth it in the Lorn's work an' take the taint off of it." (Makes me think of Amos Kenworthy's reply when a whiskey distiller offered him some money, with a question as to whether Amos would accept it from such a source. Amos replied, "I certainly will accept it. The devil has had it long enough; it's time it was used in the Lord's work for a while.")

My last personal contact with Allen Jay was at the Men's National Missionary Conference in Chicago. He was having lunch with a number of young preachers -- a very natural thing, for he was young in spirit though old in years. In the course of our conversation he said that if he were fifty years younger he would raise money for Pacific College, Nebraska Central College and Pickering College, in that order. I knew more about Pacific College than a pig knows about Sunday, but not much more. When I was asked to accept a position for this Quaker college that is farthest west, Allen's words did not tend to deter me.

BARROW AND GERALDINE CADBURY

This pair I always think of together, a rare and highly honored husband and wife whose combination of Christian ideals of altruism, intelligence, energy, enthusiasm and money, among other things made them servants of humanity in a very large way. One estimate of her importance was made by ~~summan~~ James Chuter Ede, Home Secretary and member of Parliament, with a whole string of titles, "Geraldine Cadbury did probably more for delinquent children than anybody else in this country or any other. She was ahead of her time, but her faith will be justified." And in wvrything she did Barrow Cadbury was her constant comrade -- and financier; and in Quaker circles he was a power in everything which Friends did for the good of humanity, and that, in the Quaker circles in which he moved, was so far beyond anything that could have been expected from so small a body ^{that it} was almost unbelievable.

Their marriage was a love match of the highest order. In the matter of finance they were far apart, as they were in many other ways; but in the basic things of life they were one. He was a shy young man, to become rich; she was the oldest of nine children where rigid economy was required. But when this prospective millionaire met this lovely young woman with the Irish ancestry -- well, they did not "fall in love", they rose into it.

They had three children -- they wanted more. One could write a book about those children, but I'm writing just a little about their parents. There is so much to tell that I'll not try to tell it. For the service of humanity, a dozen buildings from tea rooms to hospitals; seven different Home Office Committees on which Geraldine served; they were both magistrates -- there should be a book about that; Barrow headed a gigantic business ~~with 10,000 employees~~ with 10,000 employees, and handled it as a steward of the King of Kings; Geraldine was made a Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire, the feminine equivalent of Knighthood; Barrow was honored with all sorts of awards -- but why go on? Their services were magnificent, and as Geraldine said, "We always do things together.

And there was something higher and better than all these things. Barrow and Geraldine Cadbury were humble followers of Jesus, the friend of publicans and sinners, the lover of children, the man of Bethlehem and Nazareth who went about doing good, the incarnation of love, who used to say "It is more blessed to give than to receive." It was a joy when Rebecca and I had them as guests in our home; it was a joy to be guests in their home, and to be in the group that gathered each ~~night~~ evening for devotions before bedtime. Barrow, the multi-millionaire, his wife, already famous, the house servants, the guests, and even the pet fox terrier; and Barrow Cadbury read from the bible, and offered a simple, humble prayer that reached beyond the stars.

In one of the World Conferences of Friends that was held in England, peace-loving Quakers got into serious disagreement, and as discussion got hotter and hotter the situation grew more and more unmanageable. Presently Barrow Cadbury arose and with his heart turned heavenward he said in his simple way, "O lord, we're in a mess. Please help us out." The conference received the needed help.