



Bandmaster Clint, Leeds 2.

A Bandmaster who "Leads."

Many years ago, at Heckmondwike, "Little Soldier" Clint marched, sang, and prayed in what was then the Junior fighting force of The Salvation Army.

He is now Bandmaster Clint, of Leeds 2.

Converted as a boy, twenty-six years ago, he was the son of Salvationist parents, and it was one of his chief delights to get possession of an instrument belonging to an uncle, who was one of The Army's earliest Bandsmen, and practice the playing of well-known choruses.

By this means he was fairly proficient with the instrument when he reached thirteen years of age, and proudly took his position as a fully-fledged Bandsman.

For a period of eleven years he fought and prayed in the Heckmondwike Band, occasionally changing instruments, until he had produced music from every instrument the Band possessed.

He, however, settled down on the solo euphonium as his favorite.

Work becoming scarce in Heckmondwike, Bandsman Clint fare-welled in order to follow his employment at Newcastle-on-Tyne, where he spent a very happy and profitable fifteen months in the Corps Band.

Migrating thence to Leeds, and securing work at his present place, at the end of his first year amongst the Leeds 2 comrades he was made Deputy-Bandmaster.

Six months later he became Bandmaster.

He is rightly proud of the Band he has the honor of leading.

As a musical and fighting force their reputation stands high, and naturally the Bandmaster has to keep well "ahead" of the times.

Bandmaster Clint is a "stickler" for three things: (1) adherence to Regulations, (2) the wearing of uniform at all open-air and indoor meetings, and (3) regularity in attending practices.

The observance of these requirements accounts for the smart appearance and excellence of tone of Leeds 2 Band.

Bandmaster Clint has always "led" the Band in the highest sense.

No Bandmaster was quicker to recognize the wide scope afforded by the new selections in the "Journals" than Bandmaster Clint, and none more readily appreciated The General's dictum when consenting to the enlarged musical range of Salvation Army music.

Whilst far from despising the old well-worn themes, he realized that his comrades were ready to climb higher, and willing to attempt the highest flights of musical excellence.

Undoubtedly, the zest shown by them in coming up to practice, and the skill with which they have overcome the technique of the pieces, have been most gratifying to him, and fully testify to the wisdom of the introduction of the higher-class music.

In this, as in other matters, the influence of the Bandmaster is apparent.

Bandmaster Clint is firmly of opinion that no other leader can boast of a more loyal and hardworking set of comrades than he possesses in the Leeds 2 Bandsmen, and though conscious of imperfections, he thanks God daily that he is "fully saved," and as determined as ever to use his musical talents for Him.

He glories in The Salvation Army and the fact that he is leader of such a devoted set of men.

From his exalted post of Bandmaster he often reviews the past, and to any who doubts the reality of "child conversion," he narrates the story of how he came to Christ in the Heckmondwike Army Hall.

"Drawn," he says, "by the invisible force of the Holy Spirit, I went out of the throng to the penitential, where Christ received me, a laddie of eight years old!

How I thank God that, as a child, I found him, 'Whom to know is life eternal.'

I have been saved from a thousand snares, and have experienced untold joy in His service.

I pray that He will enable me to keep faithful to serve Him better, and grant me larger opportunities of showing my gratitude for all His mercies." (The Bandsman and Songster, June 8, 1907)