



Pastor's Comments

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Northampton Assembly of God

3449 Cherryville Rd., Northampton • Sun. 10:45 am & 6 pm; Wed. 7:30 pm

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Song Stirred Memories of Mother

Ira D. Sankey was traveling by steamboat up the Delaware River when he was asked to sing. He sang the "Shepherd Song" after which a man with a rough, weather-beaten face came up to him and said: "Did you ever serve in the Union Army?" "Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, "in the spring of 1860." "Can you remember if you were doing picket duty on a bright, moonlight night in 1862?" "Yes," answered Mr. Sankey, very much surprised.

"So did I," said the stranger, "but I was serving in the Confederate army. When I saw you standing at your post I said to myself: 'That fellow will never get away from here alive.' I raised my musket and **took aim**. I was standing in the shadow completely concealed, while the full light of the moon was falling upon you. At that instant, just as a moment ago, you raised your eyes to heaven and began to sing. Music, especially song, has always had a wonderful power over me, and **I took my finger off the trigger**. 'Let him sing his song to the end,' I said to myself. 'I can shoot him afterwards. He's my victim at all events, and my bullet cannot miss him.' But **the song you sang then was the song you sang just now**. I heard the words perfectly: '**We are Thine, do Thou befriend us, Be the guardian of our way.**' Those words stirred up many memories in my heart. I began to think of my childhood and **my God-fearing mother**. She had many, many times sung that song to me. But she died all too soon, otherwise much in my life would no doubt have been different."

"When you had finished your song it was impossible for me to take aim at you again. I thought: 'The Lord who is able to save that man from certain death must surely be great and mighty' and **my arm of its own accord dropped limp** at my side." —Religious Digest