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Abstract

On George Harris' Christianity in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* by Harriet Beecher Stowe

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The purpose of this article is, first, to clarify how George Harris, an anti-Christian at the beginning of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, became a Christian during the course of the story; and secondly, to ask whether George's conversion to Christianity was logically and persuasively presented.

This article consists of three parts. The first is George's escape from America to Canada. At this station, George's anti-Christianity is strongly related to his anti-American viewpoint. The second part is George's experience with the Quaker family. For the first time in his life, George experienced the meaning of "home" while with the Quaker family. In George's situation, that experience is closely connected to trust in Christianity. He understands from the bottom of his heart that "the light of a living Gospel" is present in the Quaker family. George's experience with the family should have been a crucial event that would shape his later life. However, the experience with the Quakers does not seem to have had a powerful influence on George's decision to leave for Liberia. In fact, George's decision has almost no relation to the family and their faith. The third part is George's departure from America to Liberia as a Christian and patriot. In this stage, George's Christianity is closely tied to his patriotism and is quite different from his earlier escape from America to Canada as an anti-Christian and anti-nationalist. The transition from former religious and political stances to the latter is not clear.

Based on the analysis of the aforementioned three parts, my conclusion is that Stowe was not logically consistent in her description of how George became a Christian, and therefore, the novel does not persuasively portray George's conversion to Christianity.