

### THE PRESBYTERIAN CHRISTIAN ENDEAVORERS.

**T**HE adaptability of Christian Endeavor to meet the needs of every denomination, in the education of its young people, is illustrated by the recent action of the Committee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church having oversight of the young people's societies. The General Assembly, at its meeting in June last, instructed this committee "to consider how the doctrine, polity, history, and work of the church may be brought more adequately before the young people through the societies."

The committee has prepared a plan of study in line with these instructions, which is sure to prove educative and helpful to Presbyterian young people, and which will still keep them in touch with the general movement.

It is proposed that five minutes of each meeting be given for the study of doctrine. The textbook chosen is the Shorter Catechism, a question of which is to be recited and a short address or paper given on some important point in the question. One meeting a month is to be devoted to the study of the polity, history, and work of the church. The second meeting of the month is the one selected, as the subjects set in the uniform topic card more readily fall in with this arrangement. The monthly topics for 1897 are calculated to prepare the way for a more detailed study, along the lines indicated, in subsequent years, and their use cannot fail to be deeply interesting and profitable to Presbyterian Christian Endeavorers. A special topic card, embracing these features and suggesting helpful literature for the study of the topics, has been prepared by the Endeavor Herald Company. Arrangements have also been made for the publication of "helps" for these monthly meetings in the *Presbyterian Record*. Any information with regard to this plan of study will be gladly furnished by the convener of the committee, Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, M.A., Bowmanville, Ont.

This readiness on the part of the Presbyterian Church to help the Christian Endeavor societies to put a fuller meaning into their motto, "For Christ and the Church," is deserving of commendation. The societies may now show their appreciation of the interest manifested in them by the General Assembly, by heartily adopting the plan of study. May its use bring a blessing to every society! It is Ian Maclaren who says that "the best service any man can render to Christianity is to see that the work of his own denomination is well organized and effectively carried out," and with this declaration Christian Endeavor is in full accord.

### The Worker's Corner

CONDUCTED BY R. J. DUNCAN-CLARK.

#### LIFE WORTH LIVING.

**I**S life worth living? Yes, so long  
As there is wrong to right,  
Wall of the weak against the strong  
Or tyranny to fight;  
Long as there fingers gloom to chase,  
Or streaming tear to dry,  
One kindred woe, one sorrowing face  
That smiles as we draw nigh;  
Long as a tale of anguish swells  
The heart, and lids grow wet,  
And at the sound of Christmas bells  
We pardon and forget;  
So long as faith with freedom reigns,  
And loyal hope survives,

And gracious charity remains  
To leaven lowly lives;  
While there is one untrodden tract  
For Intellect or Will,  
And men are free to think and act  
Life is worth living still.

—Alfred Austin.

#### A FEW REMARKS.

**H**AVE you read the editorial in last month's *HERALD* on "Our Deepest Need"? If not, turn it up now and read it before you go any farther. The plans and methods which may be suggested in this Corner will be unavailing unless this need has been met in you. Take your Bible, and spend the first quiet half hour you have in reading what it teaches about this supremely important subject. Read Jno. 14: 15-31; 16: 7-14; Acts 1: 8; 2: 1-40; Rom. 8: 9. Ephes. 5: 18. Then ask God to show you your own weakness and worthlessness, that you may truly realize your absolute need of His Holy Spirit. One word as to how the command of Ephes. 5: 18 may be obeyed. Remember, all God's commands are enablings, and He asks nothing that He will not give power to perform. The necessary conditions to obedience in this case may be briefly summarized as follows: 1. *Be hungry*; that is to say, create an appetite by prayer and Bible study for the filling of the Spirit. So doing you put yourself in the position to be filled. See Matt. 5: 6. 2. *Be empty*, a vessel which already contains something, cannot be filled with something else. Thus you must yield up everything you have to God, if you would receive the fullness of His Spirit; you must hold nothing more precious than this blessing; like Abraham you must climb Moriah, and offer up your Isaac. 3. *Be open*; that is to say, when you are hungry and emptied expect God to do His part. Let not the stone of unbelief roll over the entrance to your soul and exclude the blessing. 4. *Be obedient*; do just what God tells you. When you receive the Holy Spirit in His fullness by faith, do not expect what someone has called, "a drawing room experience"; He may, and probably will, lead you, as He did the Master, out into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. But wherever He leads and whatever He says, be obedient.

And now just a word about prayer. I am convinced that there are more dead, indifferent Christian Endeavor societies for lack of prayer than for any other reason. Prayer is the God-ordained channel of blessing for the believer, and if it is neglected starved souls cannot fail to result. Have more prayer in your prayer meetings; let that first word be strongly emphasized. Set your committees to concerted and frequent prayer about their work. Urge the individual members to daily plead God for blessing upon the society. When there is more praying about our work there will be less playing at it.

In conclusion, let me again remind you that a hearty welcome awaits you whenever you choose to take a seat in the "Corner." Let us hear about your plans, let us help you in your difficulties.

#### OUR CONSECRATION MEETINGS.

**I**T is impossible for us to give too much attention to this crowning service in Christian Endeavor. It should be planned for with much thought and prayer. Often its helpfulness may be increased by making it assume some very definite form. For instance, one month the members may be called upon to consecrate themselves to personal work; seeking specially that God would give His Holy Spirit for the work of dealing with individuals about their souls. The uplifted hand may be asked as a pledge to attempt such service. Again, the keeping of the morning watch in prayer and Bible study may be made the purpose of the consecration; each being asked to promise at least fifteen minutes alone with God before breakfast each morning. Few definite acts of consecration are more likely to result in untold blessing

to the members and to the society than this. On another occasion the consecration of one-tenth of their income may be sought, or perhaps the volunteering of their lives for the service of Christ in foreign lands. Thus the consecration meeting may become a very definite, practical means of grace, instead of being, as it sometimes is, a mere monthly opportunity for the repairing of broken vows.

#### A CALL TO ARMS!

**L**OUDLY would I sound the bugle call that will summon the Christian Endeavor hosts in Canada to arms! There is battle to be waged in our land which must strain every nerve and test every sinew if we would win. It is a fight for the Lord and His Day! The growing laxity and indifference among professing Christian people in the matter of Sabbath observance is too sadly apparent to need comment. One thing is evident; unless the friends of the Sabbath buckle on their armor, and hasten to its defence, it will be lost as a day of rest and worship beyond all recovery. What can we do? you ask; and it is because I have something definite to propose that I sound this call to arms. This question is not a local or municipal one; it is provincial. The observance of the Sabbath in Ontario is governed by a provincial law which applies with equal force to all parts of the province. Under this law what can be done in Toronto may be done in Parry Sound or anywhere else; and what cannot be done in Parry Sound may not be done in Toronto. No municipal law can override or interfere with its enforcement. Thus if under it Sunday cars are illegal, no popular vote or city by-law can empower them to run. Now there exists in Ontario a society known as the "Lord's Day Alliance," the object of which is to preserve our rest day from desecration. This Alliance is testing the legality of Sunday cars under the provincial act before the Court of Appeal, and decision will probably be given this month. Now, should the judgment be adverse, the Alliance will probably go to the Legislature in the spring and ask them to so amend the act as to make it cover Sunday cars; should the judgment be favorable, the street railway companies will probably seek an amendment of the act to permit of Sunday cars. In any case a battle royal will be fought in the Ontario house, and the side which can exert the greater pressure will probably win. From this you can understand that heavy expenses must be incurred and a large membership throughout the province would be a great strength to the Alliance. No organization is in a better position to secure such members than our Christian Endeavor societies. Let our city and county unions take this up. An annual fee of fifty cents makes one a member. Send at once to Mr. A. E. O'Meara, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto, for membership blanks, etc., and begin an immediate canvas in your own church and neighborhood. We should be able to secure at least 10,000 members in Ontario by January, 1897. Now then, altogether, and let the battle cry be, "For the Lord and His Day!"

#### SOCIAL TO SAVE.

**S**Ocial TO SAVE; not to amuse or entertain as too often seems to be the idea held by many committees, but to gather in the outsiders and give them a little taste of heaven here on earth. The work of the Social Committee should be as deeply spiritual as that of any other branch of Christian Endeavor. To my mind it is a misconception that makes its chief duty the arranging of concerts, teas, and other enjoyable but not always edifying gatherings. I may as well at once admit that I have somewhat peculiar views on this matter, and that will prepare you for anything strange I may say. No Social Committee that admits the secular, and so to a large extent excludes or subordinates the spiritual, is fit for Christian Endeavor work. If you cannot win souls by exalting Christ, you