

Life Talks With Young Men

BY ONE OF THEMSELVES

THIS other day I picked up a book from my library table, and these words caught my eye:

"Any man can feel reasonably well satisfied if he's sure there is going to be a hole to look at when he's pulled up by the roots."

They stuck in my mind, and because I have been thinking about them, I am going to pass some of my thoughts on to you. Did you ever think what a good and helpful thing reciprocity of thought might be made? If we all got into the habit of exchanging our thoughts with someone else I think it would be both stimulating and profitable.

It would be a good thing for two reasons: First, it would help the other fellow; and second, it would elevate our own thinking. Honest, now, men, do we not sometimes have thoughts that are unworthy, mean, low, and sordid; thoughts that we would not want to exchange with anyone? If we once got the habit of thinking in order to give out to someone else, cannot you see that it would lead to a higher plane of thought? Just think that over.

My passing some thoughts along to you will, I believe in my heart, make me better and stronger for so doing, and I want them to make you better, too. I hope you read last month's talk and that you caught its spirit, and are determined to get in line and become through high thinking the moulder of a noble life and a glorious destiny.

You will remember that I said that until thought is linked with purpose there can be no intelligent accomplishment. Now it's not enough to just think. You must do, you must act, you must get results that are worth while if you are going to fulfil your mission; if you are going to leave a hole to look at when you are pulled up by the roots.

I do not know what your particular mission or work in life may be; but I do know that you have one, for God never sent a man into this world that He did not send his work with him. The Master Builder has a plan for each one of us, so

"Build as near as you can to the

Architect's plan,
And the finished product will be a man."

The men who accomplish are the men of purpose. This has been called the young man's age. And so it is. There has never been a time when young men have so projected themselves into the doing of things worth while and in which greater responsibility has been placed upon them. Now, don't run away with the impression that because you are young the world is yours. This is the day of opportunity, and it is yours to conquer. The victory will be to the purposeful young men. Yes, that is the idea—the lives full of purpose are the ones that count. Do not sit down and say: "The world owes me a living." It does nothing of the kind. You owe humanity and your Creator a life of service, and the rendering of that service should be the prime purpose underlying your life.

In God's great plan you have your appointed place. No one has a right to know what it is. You even, as yet, may not know. But it should be the purpose of your life to find out the will of God concerning you and to do it. It does not take long to say that, does it? But it takes a lifetime to work it out. Words flow easily from the tongue, but, oh, the

struggles and the heartaches before they are verified in our lives. And, oh, the grandeur of a purpose filled life. It has a bigness that attracts; there is a force behind it that does things, and it leaves its mark as it passes along life's highway.

Just a few words in a general way, for each of you must discuss with yourselves your own particular purpose. Our purpose in life should extend in two directions, Godward and manward. Christ taught that these are inseparable. The Lord's Prayer combines these relations—first, to "Our Father" and then to our

The Purpose and Possibilities of the Fourth Department

AN ADDRESS GIVEN BY REV. T. H. P. ANDERSON AT THE BAY OF QUINTE CONFERENCE E. L. CONVENTION.

I DO not know that I have any special qualifications for the reason of which the lot should fall on me to speak on this subject. I think perhaps it is because a few weeks ago at the Campbell River District Convention, I spoke on the work of this Department.

In speaking to one whom I thought was fairly conversant with the working of our League I said, "I am to speak on the work of the Fourth Department." "Oh, yes," was the reply, "On the social work of the League." Then I had to explain that at our last General Conference the constitution of the League had been altered by combining the Literary and Social Departments and giving us a new Fourth Department, viz., Citizenship.

Moreover, I was surprised at the number of Leaguers at that convention in Campbellford, who afterward said that until I spoke on the subject that day they were unaware of such a change having been made. I suspect that they either do not take the ERA, or, taking it, have not read it closely. So here I would advise the delegates on your return home to secure copies of the new constitution and study it.

Now, this Fourth Department, this Citizenship Department, is divided into five main divisions, viz., 1, Patriotism; 2, Municipal Politics; 3, Temperance; 4, Prohibition; 5, Moral Reform; 6, Athletics. Each of these main subjects is divided into minor departments suggestive of minute and detailed study of the main subjects.

The Apostle Paul, in writing to the Philippians, exhorts them, "Only let your citizenship be worthy of the gospel of Christ, striving together as athletes for the faith of the Gospel." In the progress of the world and the inworking of the Holy Spirit to our generation a new truth is being unveiled. Men are learning to think of humanity, not as a series of disconnected individuals, but as the inter-related members of a living society. Our personal life is rooted in the life of humanity, and draws its richest nourishment from it. The individual comes to perfection only in and through fellowship. The process of civilization has been a process of evolution looking toward first the perfection of social order, and then the perfection of the conditions which make for social well-being. Concurrently with this social development civilization must carry with it the development of the individual. Therefore the young people of the Epworth Leagues are to be congratulated that in this department of citizenship they will have an opportunity to

brother. Christ's new commandment does the same: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, . . . and thy neighbor." You cannot love God and hate man. And any purpose that clings not to God and stretches out in service to humanity and humanity's need is not going to build a successful and satisfying life.

So, brother man, whatever your work and your purpose in life, make them worthy. Link your programme to God's plan. Make yours a purpose filled life. Think much on your purpose, for thought is creative. Work hard, for that is what counts. Intelligent thought and practical accomplishment should go hand in hand. And when the time comes for you to be transplanted, you may be assured that there's going to be a hole to look at when you've been "pulled up by the roots."

Men, make the hole a large one.

study those principles which form the woof on which the fabric of our humanity is woven. The purpose is to develop high sentiment of home and a consciousness of civic responsibilities. "Hardly ever," says Prof. James, "is a language learned after twenty spoken without a foreign accent." The same may be said of the good citizenship. They are likely to be manifested in the life of the individual only to the degree that he has been trained in them during the formative period of his life.

The secular school system makes all too little provision for training the moral and spiritual faculties, and these are an essential to good, honorable citizenship. Therefore the demand is upon the church to supply the education that shall make the individual a safe and helpful member of society. The demand does not necessitate less of the Bible. It does, however, mean that the Bible principles shall be made real and practical in the light of every-day life, so that the young people shall feel that these are as forceful to-day as when the tablet came from Mount Sinai, or the Master spoke by the Sea of Galilee.

Touching the work of the first subject of this Department, viz., Patriotism, we see that here the young people of Methodism will be instructed as to what are the true principles of patriotism and what patriotism means. Patriotism is not a noisy, fireworks, skyrocket demonstration on certain national holidays, but rather, as it has been defined by someone as being, "A deep, strong passion for the higher, larger, moral interests of the people." Here is room for service; indeed, here is the call for the use of the best of manhood in service for humanity and Jesus Christ. To be truly patriotic we must know the past, enter into the present, live and work for the future of our country.

The second subdivision, viz., Municipal Politics, as a study presents the possibility of the Epworth Leaguers reaching the achievement suggested by the late Henry Drummond when he said, "To move among the people on the common street, to meet them in the marketplace, to live among them, not as saint or monk, but as brother man with brother men; to serve God not with form or ritual, but in the free impulse of the soul; to bear the burdens of society and relieve its needs; to care for the multitudinous activities of the city, social, commercial, political, philanthropic, in Christ's spirit and for His ends."