

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR MOVEMENT.

THE NEW PRAYER-MEETING—SYSTEMATIC COMMITTEE WORK—SOCIOLOGY AS IMPORTANT AS THEOLOGY.

The key-note of this whole Convention was:—"It is not the business of the church to amuse its young people but to train them in Christian work." The greater part of one morning's session was devoted to addresses bearing upon this subject. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman in explaining the movement expressed his belief that it was the answer sent by God to the question that has rested like a burden on the heart of many an anxious pastor, "How shall I reach and hold and train my young people?" It was also the solution of one of the gravest problems before the Church of Christ, for if the young people of this generation be trained in the principles of Christian endeavor, through them would the masses be reached and won. The Christian Endeavor was everywhere pledged to duty. Duty was the one stimulant that never failed and never intoxicated. The path of duty was like the roads of the south, hedged on either side with perpetual bloom, but woe to the man who turned to one side or the other, he would be lacerated by a thousand piercing thorns and bruised by concealed and hitherto undreamed-of dangers.

There are five separate duties laid upon each member of the Christian Endeavor Society. First to obey the command of Christ and let their light so shine that by their consecration and zeal they should constrain others to come to him. Second, their own particular church must be before all others in their thoughts and care. Any influence, however good in itself, that draws away from them strength which should be spent in furthering the Kingdom of Christ in connection with the special church to which they were pledged is not born of Christian endeavor. Third, they must aid their pastor in his work. The object of this society is to make incarnate, to put into practice the pulpit's message of truth. It is to be on the lookout for souls that during the service have been touched by the truth, and lead them, by the help of God, into the clearer light of Christ. The fourth duty is to cultivate the talent of speech and prayer in public. Who that has travelled much in the round of prayer meetings, has not been impressed with the great need of such training. A man not far from the Hudson river had been heard to pray again and again with the greatest fervor, "O Lord, help us to grow up like calves in the stall and become meet for the Kingdom of Heaven." Fifth, and perhaps more important of all because including all is loyalty to the pledge—the iron-clad pledge. It is the strength of Christian character and the life of the society. A society, the members of which do not live and act up to this pledge, is not a Christian endeavor society at all. It is like a man with no backbone. It had been urged by many that insisting on such strict observance would kill the cause, but to this fear he would reply as the old negro preacher did when told he would kill the church if he begged for money every Sunday: "Then, brethren, I will keep right on for it is written 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.'" The pledge is nothing more than what every church member promises, a pledge to the service of Christ. Think of what he has done for us and consider if the pledge increased a thousand fold would be too much for us to give in return.

Dr. Deems, of New York, followed in an address on loyalty to the church. The motto of every young person on joining the church should be "I will not go one inch beyond its borders until I have done all I can do in it."

Dr. Chamberlain, of Brooklyn, laid the most solemn emphasis on loyalty to the incarnate Christ as the corner and top stone of the movement. Other religions had exalted faulty men but having thus sown the wind of folly they had reaped the whirlwind of degradation.

The committee meetings in which I was especially interested were the "Lookout" and "Prayer Meeting Methods" committees. "Lookout Committee," said one speaker, "Lookout. Dwell always upon Lookout Mountain, for there is many a battle to be fought. Don't be afraid of

the enemy, for he is just as much afraid of you as you are of him. Be as a five-fold watch upon ship-board. Look out aloft and direct your course from above. Look out below to keep out of shallows. Stand as mariners at the gangway and see that none but those who have a right come aboard. Here is one great cause of failure. Admission is made too easy. Not every church member may be admitted to membership in the Christian Endeavor Society, but only those who will take the iron-clad pledge and stand by it. Fifth, look out and see that everything in the society is kept in ship-shape.

The Lookout Committee should have its work systematized. Each member should have a printed list of the members of the society and in each meeting quietly mark each one who does or does not take part. Each member of the committee should also have at least one person to look after and report to the committee upon. They should report to their pastor at least once

the very practical addresses was one by the Rev. Wayland Hoyt, D. D., of Philadelphia, on "The new prayer-meeting." The secret of the success of the new prayer meeting, he said, was that it was but a return to the old Biblical prayer meeting of the New Testament. In the average prayer meeting there was always too much desk and too little people. But that old prayer meeting had several elements of success. First, it was an attended meeting. They were all with one accord in one place. Peter was not absent because it was hot, nor James because it was a little too cool, nor Bartholomew because it was too wet. Mary did not stay away because her veil was out of style, nor Salome because she was due at a party elsewhere, nor James the Less because Peter was taking too much on himself. Whether any one else is there or not the Christian Endeavorer is bound to be there for he studies not his convenience but his duty. Then this new, old prayer-meeting was a

said, "but God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the mighty, and I am glad I am a woman so that Christ may use me. Shall not we who are taught teach one another. In our Father's family shall we not tell what he has done for us?"

Dr. Pierson, who is known to many in Montreal, expressed himself as much pleased to hear of 500,000 young people committed to Christian endeavor, for in his life-time he had known at least 5,000,000 committed to Christian laziness. It was within the power of the present generation, if they would, to win the whole world for Christ, who had been waiting for nineteen centuries with a sluggish, indifferent church to see of the travail of his soul and be satisfied.

The closing consecration meeting was one never to be forgotten. After a hymn and a moment of silent prayer testimonies of devotion or renewed personal consecration to Christ came thick and fast from all quarters of the vast assembly, and to all appearance, had time served would have continued for hours.

Of all the thoughts expressed during the whole Convention, perhaps the most important was that urged by the Rev. Geo. Wells, D.D., of Montreal, the vital necessity of daily, close study of the Bible. This was the Christian's only weapon of attack, and only by constant study would he be fitted to use it. And knowing this he must not be anxious to take up any other. Some people nowadays expected the Christian to be a walking arsenal; they thought he must be learned in all wisdom and science of the ancient and modern schools, but a full knowledge of the Bible was sufficient. Other weapons were too often nothing but an encumbrance.

The next meeting of the Convention is to be held in St. Louis, Mo. C. R. Montreal.

Duty be thy polar guide—
Do the right whate'er betide!
Haste not! rest not! conflicts past,
God shall crown thy work at last.

—From the German.

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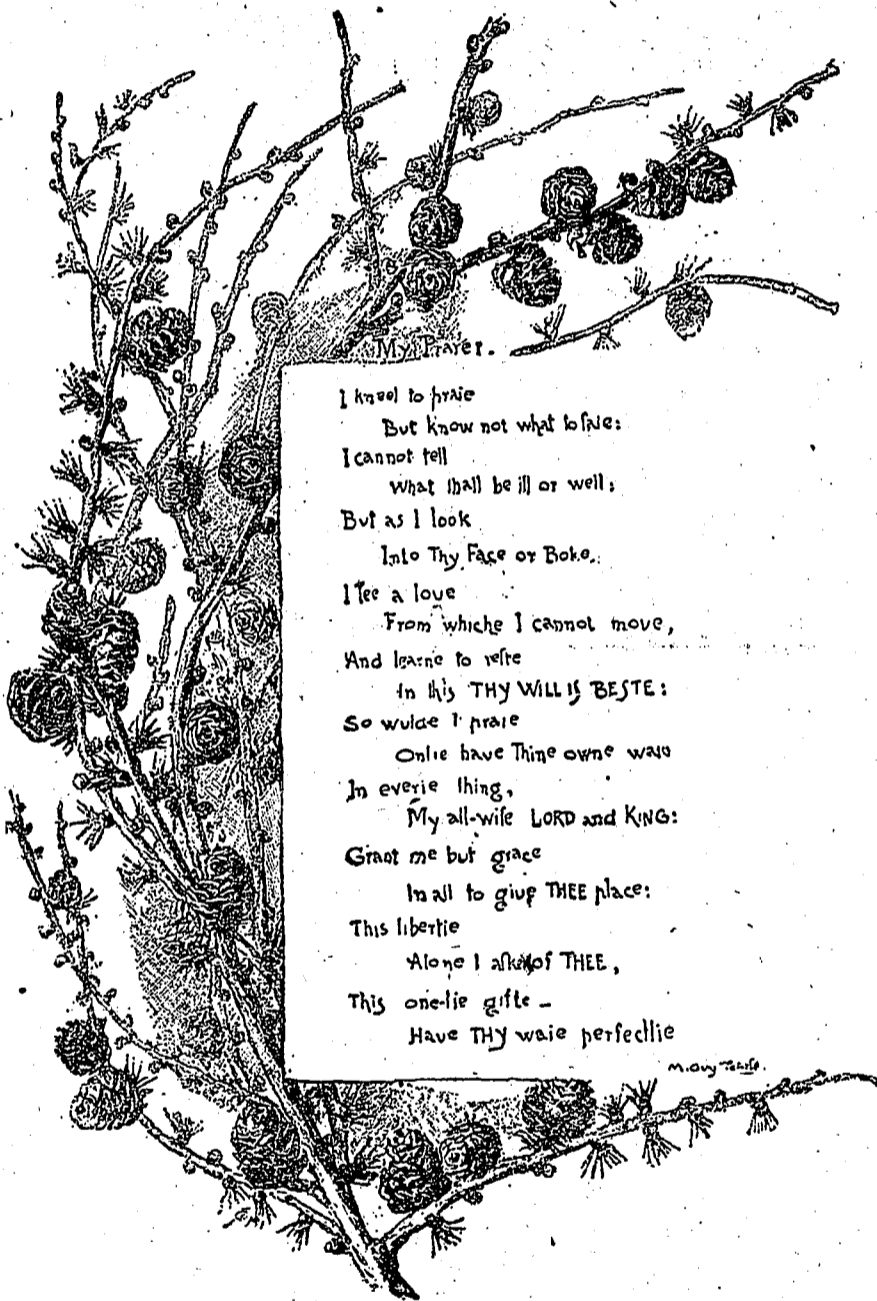
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I kneel to praise
But know not what to say:
I cannot tell
What shall be ill or well;
But as I look
Into Thy Face or Bote,
I see a love
From whence I cannot move,
And learn to rest
In this THY WILL IS BESTE:
So wulde I praise
Onlie have Thine owne way
In everie thing,
My all-wile LORD and KING:
Grant me but grace
In all to giue THEE place:
This libertie
Alone I aske of THEE,
This one-lie gifte—
Have THY waie perfectlie

a month. The first duty of the Lookout Committee is consecrated individual character and spotless reputation before the world.

In the committee meeting on prayer meeting methods, it was urged not to be afraid of too much music, to remember that a prayer meeting was not a funeral and choose the hymns accordingly. The feeling was especially strong against long prayers, and much sympathy expressed with the man who prayed "O Lord, how long wilt thou endure this persecution of thy people, send an angel to shut their mouths." The average long prayer was an insult to God. The leader was urged to hold a tight rein and strive to draw forth some expression from every one present. The chief difficulty was not in getting the leader to prepare for the meetings but in getting each individual member to prepare for it. The leaders need not be all first quality for this was the training school of the church. One of the most telling of all

meeting of prevailing prayer because it was a meeting of according prayer, a meeting where promises were pleaded. And last of all the miserable padlock of silence on the lips of women had been forever thrown away and they spake with one accord with their brethren.

The importance of hand-shaking was dwelt upon in an address by the Rev. C. H. Farrar, D.D., of Albany, who put in a strong plea for the social element in church life. The church was not made for the ideal man but for man as he is and before long Christians would come to realize that the study of sociology was as important as theology. There was danger of laying too much stress upon organization and so losing sight of personal effort.

Miss Wheeler, of Harpoor, interpreted St. Paul's injunction to women by taking her audience in imagination out to the very country to whose women he spoke, and showed how the society there differed from that here. "We are poor and weak," she