

Australia has over two thousand societies, and is represented in this convention by two delegates that have travelled over six thousand miles to bring greetings from our brothers and sisters under the Southern Cross. India has 454, China 148, Africa 136, Mexico 108, West Indies 103, Germany 101, Madagascar 93, Japan 73, and on through a long list, which I must omit at this time, but cannot pass by Spain, the country with whom we were at war last year. Spain, rent with war and turmoil, has more than held her own, for she has thirty-six societies.

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OVER a hundred societies are to be found upon ships, merchantmen, and men-of-war; many societies in the soldiers' camps, and in unexpected places, such as prisons, schools of reform, workhouses, almshouses, asylums, institutions for the blind and for the deaf, schools and colleges; among car-drivers and motormen, policemen, travelling men, life-savers on the coast, lighthouse employees, in large factories, etc., to the number of over two hundred.

I have a right to the exultant ring in my voice when I say that we have crossed the fifty-five thousand line. The official enrollment is 55,813 societies, with a total membership of 3,350,000.

If any Christian has lost his enthusiasm, these figures should be a source of inspiration.

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In England the Baptists lead in Christian Endeavor, in Australia the Wesleyan Methodists, in Canada the Methodists, and in the United States the Presbyterians, who have over 8000 societies; the Congregationalists have 6,000.

With a commendable spirit of friendly rivalry, our denominational banners are carried in the front ranks, and never lowered. High over all, however, do we raise the blood-stained banner of the Cross, and are amenable to no other authority than that of our commander-in-chief, the King of kings, and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world.

## Mutual Helpfulness.

### I. HOW THE PASTOR CAN HELP THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

BY REV. W. F. WILSON, HAMILTON, ONT.

HELP by being one of them, as companion, counsellor, and friend. A true comrade, winning the respect, gaining the confidence and inspiring the enthusiasm of each member; pointing out the true elements of success, namely, industry, courage, charity, fidelity, purity and faith—then leading the way, for the general who conquers must lead.

So the pastor who would have his society stand on the summit of service for Christ must know personally its membership, and do his best to answer present, when the roll is called.

Help by placing before the society its proper work, which is not to study the logical questions of the day, solve the theological problems of the Church, or

answer the great questions of the schools; but to develop intelligent, patriotic, benevolent, enthusiastic, Christ-like character. Hence, clear conceptions of duty and plans for service are absolutely necessary to success.

Help by instruction and inspiration. The Christian Endeavor Society is one of the West Points of the Church of Christ. Here candidates for the pulpit, mission fields, and other centres of religious service and activity are trained. And the Church needs well-equipped men—men with convictions, not opinions; views, not visions; facts, not fancies; doctrines, not doubts.

Help by directing them to the source of all power. The cry of some is "On to Christ," but I say, "Back to Pentecost." Oh, the rapture of the quiet hour! This harness yourself for service; let each life be linked to some noble purpose, then with patience, perseverance, prayer and power, victory is sure to be yours.

### II. HOW YOUNG PEOPLE CAN HELP THE PASTOR.

BY PRESIDENT A. E. TURNER, LINCOLN, ILL.

Young people may help the pastor by faithful and punctual attendance upon the public services of the sanctuary, joining heartily in all parts of the worship and thus making the hour one of uplift and inspiration to preacher, as well as one of joy to their own souls. Earnest faces of thoughtful young Christians who would know the truth in order to thrive upon it have ironed out many a troubled brow or sung joy to many a discouraged spirit.

To do uncomplainingly what one is asked to do is oftener a greater service to the pastor than the taking of a city would be.

A good helper of his pastor should wear a smiling face while living the sermons of every Sabbath. It may be seriously questioned whether the long-faced Christianity of an early day ever helped men to paradise. On the contrary, there is little doubt that it was the occasion of innumerable clerical and lay suicides.

Liberal giving would convert many automata into living, moving, striving leaders. Not every preacher's soul is firm enough to resist the taunt, "you are always wanting money," or stance enough to reform the nature that makes it. The idea of systematic and proportionate giving is fast becoming the idea of loyal Endeavorers. The Tenth Legion enrolls at this convention 15,000 members, after less than two years' effort.

A helpful young parishioner must keep up with the times in matters religious, as well as he does in matters secular. The ignorance of most churchmen is a veritable millstone about many a pastor's neck. No enthusiasm can be aroused in denominational enterprises because there is no knowledge on which to base it.

Every pastor will thrive the better in the purer and sweeter spiritual atmosphere for which the "quiet hour" stands. Given a church which is much in prayer and you have a church which not only makes the waste places glad by its lighting of missionary fires, but a church which is a joy, and consolation to its yearning, soul-saving pastor. Given a congregation of

deep spiritual life, and your preacher will be a man of fire. If he does not have the gift of tongues, he will ever after hold his peace. In either case we shall have gained something.

In answering the question with which we set out, therefore, it must appear to be, after all, not so much a question of what specific steps the young people shall take, but a shaping of their lives in accordance with the Christly model and bringing themselves into such well-rounded manhood and womanhood in the master that unconsciously, spontaneously, their lives will bring blessing, joy, peace, comfort to the heart of the pastor.

## Mr. Sheldon's Story.

REV. CHARLES M. SHELDON, author of "In His Steps," read a Christian Endeavor story to an immense audience in the First Presbyterian church. The following is a synopsis:

Rev. Mark Spencer, seated in his study, is visited by the devil who seats himself



REV. CHARLES M. SHELDON.

comfortably on the side of the table where the religious papers are piled, and then proceeds to discuss with Rev. Spencer the state of his congregation. The devil claims to have more of the congregation than the preacher, and suggests that the preacher vacate in the devil's favor. The devil points out that out of 350 church members only about 20 men and 50 women ever turn out to church and much fewer come out to prayer meeting. The society of Christian Endeavor of 65 is proportionally lax. And the choir is off, too.

Rev. Spencer refuses to vacate, however, and the devil leaves him to his meditation and prayers. The next day being Sunday, the preacher instead of preaching a sermon relates this interview with the devil to his congregation. The remainder of the story deals with the effect of this sermon.

### CHAPTER I.

The church choir are having a conversation before the service. It turns to a party of the night before, and then the organ begins.