

# The Canadian Epworth Era.

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**Our Frontispiece.**—The fine picture of Mr. Gladstone which adorns our first page is a specimen illustration from "Famous English Statesmen," one of the books in our new Epworth League Reading Course. Similar pictures of Lord Beaconsfield, Lord Shaftsbury, Sir Robert Peel and other prominent leaders of state in England during the century appear in this attractive and interesting volume.



**A New Society.**—Rev. Ira D. Landreth, in *The Christian Endeavor World*, calls attention to a new society which he thinks ought to be organized. It is different, however, from most societies, in that the pledge constitutes the whole constitution. It reads as follows: "As a young Christian woman, anxious to promote total abstinence among young men, I hereby promise that I will not knowingly receive the attentions of any young man who drinks intoxicating liquors even moderately (Signed)." He thinks that "If every young Christian woman in America would sign that pledge and keep it, every self-respecting young man in America would let the saloons severely alone; for social ostracism is a higher price than the moderate drinker is willing to pay for his indulgence."



**Gladstone on the Sabbath.**—Mr. Gladstone paid the following tribute to the Sabbath: "Believing in the authority of the Lord's Day as a religious institution, I must as a matter of course, desire the recognition of that authority by others. But over and above this, I have myself, in the course of a laborious life, signally experienced both its mental and physical benefits. I can hardly overstate its value in this view, and for the interest of the workmen of this country, alike in these and in other yet higher respects, there is nothing I more anxiously desire than that they should more and more highly appreciate the Christian Day of Rest."



**Pass it On.**—Quaint old Benjamin Franklin was the father of many sound precepts and bits of philosophy; but perhaps he never set in motion a finer impulse than when he wrote as follows to an impetuous person who craved his offices: "I send you herewith a bill for ten louis d'ors. I do not pretend to give such a sum; I only lend it to you. When you shall return to your country you cannot fail of getting into some kind of business that will in time enable you to pay all your debts. In that case, when you meet with another honest man in similar distress, you must pay me by lending this sum to him, enjoining him to discharge the debt by a like operation when he shall be able, and shall meet with another opportunity. I hope it

may then go through many hands before it meets with a knave to stop its progress. This is a trick of mine for doing a great deal of good with little money."



**A Valuable Safeguard.**—In an able article in the *Century Magazine* on "How to Safeguard One's Sanity," Dr. J. M. Buckley, of New York City, says: "The observance of one day in seven by a complete change in subjects of thought, and the suspension of the modes of activity required for six days, would be philosophical, even though it had no basis in religion. In the first French Revolution the attempt was made to have a holiday once in five days, and again once in ten. The intervals were too frequent under the first plan, and did not occur often enough under the second. Hence those who hated the system which enforced the Sabbath were forced to return to it. "The superintendent of one of the largest hospitals for the insane declares that nineteen out of twenty of the business and professional men who come under his care have been in the habit of carrying business on their minds for seven days in each and every week."

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**Is the Chinaman Worth Saving?**—In a recent sermon on this subject, Rev. Dr. Locke, of Buffalo, takes the ground that the Chinese are worth saving because of the geographical position of the country, and its exhaustless resources. The people are industrious, quiet and peaceable. They are a reverential people, although they can scarcely be said to be very religious. "All that China needs to make it a progressive and useful nation is Christianity with its Christ and His institutions. They are a more promising people than were our ancestors in Britain before their conversion to Christianity through the preaching of Augustin and the graceful influence of Queen Bertha, the wife of Ethelbert. They have won their right by venerable age to everything which Occidental nations can do for them."



**Ruskin's Rebuke.**—During the proceedings of the recent conference of the Library association in England, a characteristic story of John Ruskin was told in connection with the subject of village libraries. A library for the laborers of a lake country village had been established, and just before the opening Mr. Ruskin

was asked to inspect it. He cordially consented, and upon leaving expressed his admiration of the arrangements, and promised to send a present, which came in the form of a sumptuous set of Scott's novels. The wife of the founder thought the edition much too splendid for the purpose, and at the earliest opportunity told the donor so. "Madam," said Ruskin, "if the money the books cost had been spent in floral decorations or wines for a dinner, nothing would have been said against it, but because it has been laid out for the enjoyment of the simple villagers it is thought extravagant."



**"Strings for the Vines."**—Rev. Dr. Spencer, in the *Central Christian Advocate* thus characterizes the work of the Junior Epworth League: "At one of the Epworth conventions lately we caught that expression in an address on Junior League work. How suggestive! The training given the children in the Junior League and the Sunday School is but strings for the vines to help the vines to grow as they should, up into the sunlight and the air. It is natural for the vines to grow upward. How easy it is to help them. But some of the vines are left to themselves; the parents neglect them; the teachers are indifferent to them; the pastors forget their vows to bless them; and so the little vines are left to grope and push around in the weeds and thorns, when they were born for the sunshine and to beautify the world. Childhood was born to fly; it is often doomed to crawl. Why not furnish strings for the vines! To do it is to discharge the highest functions of motherhood and fatherhood, is it not? Uncover the vines; put far away the weeds; train them to rise; begin to-day."



**Cottage Meetings.**—A correspondent of the *Epworth Herald* thus tells of a League which has been doing practical work with good results: "Several years ago three of our young men heard of an aged couple residing in the outskirts of the city. They at once visited them and found them worthy of help. Visits to this home became regular every two weeks and were the means of the conversion of the husband, who was an invalid. He died shortly after sweetly trusting in the Lord. The visits were continued, and were of such a character that when we told about them in our church and league meetings others wanted to go with us. The result was, sinners went along and were converted, so that now when we say we are going to Mr. —s', forty or fifty young people are anxious to go. The old lady has also gone to her heavenly home, but the work goes on still. Over twenty souls have been converted at that home."