

A Boy's Estimate of a Christian Minister

The following is part of a paper given by Keith Stevenson (15 years old), at a League meeting, Laurel, when the topic of the evening was being treated by a number of young members.—Editor.

The topic under discussion this evening is, "What is my ideal for a church?" I have been requested to speak upon the minister for such a church.

A minister should be one who is truly converted and who has earnestly consecrated his life to the service of the Most High God and the uplift of humanity, one who, believing himself called of God to preach the Gospel and to minister unto the people from God's Holy Book of Truth, is properly ordained according to the manner and customs of the Church of Christ. He should have a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures, of the history of the growth and government of the Church, of the dead languages, besides a large store of general knowledge which is everywhere useful.

The word "minister" means to serve, and when a minister is called to preach he is also called to serve. In some cases he must leave all to follow his Master. In others he endangers his life by entering a sick room to comfort the dying. Some times he must be up to all hours to meetings, five times a week, rain or shine, summer or winter, and sometimes when he does reach the meeting place nobody is there, and he must drive home again without any compensation for his effort.

A minister should study the needs of a community, and find out where its weaknesses are and where its strong places. He should adapt his work to the conditions. He should also study the resources so that they may be drawn upon to meet the needs.

A minister should promote unity among his people, and among the varied organizations of his congregations. He should help the young people especially, interesting them in the church and its different branches. They should be trained to be leaders and helpers of the church in every way.

"A church is a body of Christian believers united by a common faith, a common history, and a common time. It accepts the Holy Scriptures as its different authoritative rule of faith, and steadily aims to conform its teaching and practice to the doctrine of Christ. Its symbols of doctrine should embrace the fundamental truths held by the church universal. Its forms of worship should be in harmony with New Testament teaching and the practice of the primitive church. It should have a valid ministry, called of God and ordained, by whom the ordinances of the Church of Christ are duly administered. All these distinctive marks we claim for the Methodist Church in Canada."

Waterloo Epworth League

The Epworth League of the Waterloo (Ont.) Methodist Church must be classed with the more enterprising and efficient of such organizations.

A résumé of some of the past year's activities may prove instructive and profitable to other Leagues. The Society was fortunate indeed in having for its head Mr. C. S. Bean, who combined in himself in a rare degree those qualities of leadership which ensure success. He was ably supported by the heads of all the departments, and the official machinery was efficient.

Last fall a Reading Circle was organized under the Literary Department, with some twenty-five members. We were fortunate in securing Mr. B. W. N. Griggs, B.A., one of our own members, as instructor. Special attention was given to Tennyson's Idylls of the King. The vari-

WHO WROTE THIS POEM?

SIXTH MONTHLY COMPETITION

The Winning Card in the May Contest

"Mrs. Hemans (1759-1835) the author of 'The Stately Homes of England' was one of our most noted of women poets. Her love of nature, so brought out in this poem, was instilled in her when living for nine years of her girlhood in beautiful Wales. When about six years of age she had the habit of sitting in an old apple tree to read Shakespeare. She had a remarkable memory and could repeat whole pages of poetry after reading once through. In 1808, Felicia Browne, as she was then, appeared as an author. Her first published poems were abused in some review; but this was the only harsh criticism that ever befell her. In the same year she wrote a poem named 'England and Spain'. The next year was a momentous one in the life of Miss Brown. She met Captain Hemans of the 'King's Own Regiment,' not rich in purse, but having a good education. He expressed his love for her, but had to go to Spain to quell rebellions. He came back after three years, and in 1812 the two were married. In after years, owing to the ill health of Captain Hemans, they with their children went to Italy, and it was while there that Mrs. Hemans wrote 'Lays of Many Lands.' Her intense feeling of the sacredness of home, together with her devotion to her mother, and her love for her children, brought out the nobility of her character and made itself felt in her poetry. The womanliness of her nature made her one of the most loved of British poets. It is to her that the 'Vespers of Palermo' gained for her the sum of £210. Some of her other poems were 'Hymns of Childhood,' 'Songs of the Affections,' and 'Records of Women.'"

ROSALIE LEACH.

Esplanade E., North Vancouver, B.C.

The award for the May competition gives the prize book to Rosalie Leach, Esplanade E., North Vancouver. Her postal card solution is printed herewith. Several others sent in almost equally good cards, but on the whole we consider Miss Leach's the best. As some of our young readers have thought our latest selected poems rather difficult to handle, we give a selection this month that many will at once identify, for surely the great majority of our school boys and girls are familiar with these splendid lines. The question is who wrote them? Write the name of the poet and as much of his life as you can on a postcard, and mail it to the editor so that it reaches the office on or before August 1st. A nice book prize will be given the writer of the winning card.

THIS MONTH'S SELECTION

ABOUT BEN ADHEM AND THE ANGEL

About Ben Adhem (may his tribe increase!)
Awoke one night from a sweet dream
Of peace,
And saw within the moonlight, in
his room,
Making it rich and like a lily in
bloom,
An Angel, writing in a book of
gold;
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem
bold,
And to the Presence in the room he
said,
"What writest thou?"—the vision
raised its head,
And, with a look made of all sweet
accord,
Answered, "The names of those who
love the Lord."
"And is mine one?" said Abou.
"Nay, not so,"
Replied the Angel. Abou spoke more
low,
But cheerily still; and said, "I pray
thee, then,
Write me as one who loves his fellow-men."
The Angel wrote, and vanished. The
next night
It came again, with a great waking
light,
And showed the names of those
whom love of God had blessed,
And, lo! Ben Adhem's name led all
the rest.

ous phases of the part under consideration were assigned to various members to prepare, and the leader then gathered the threads together and supplemented the papers given. These evenings had a high literary value, and all look forward to next winter when we hope to enjoy similar treats.

Our society has done its little part to promote a more kindly feeling among the different young people's societies of the town. Last fall we had a union meeting in which the English Church, the Presbyterian and the Evangelical Society next joined us. All took part and papers were given on the various phases of citizenship. An excellent musical programme was also provided. It was by common consent voted one of the most enjoyable and instructive meetings of the year.

During the past year the League raised for all purposes close on four hundred dollars. Of this, \$160 was for missions. This equals our last year's record. Over \$175 was contributed for charitable purposes, including the Patriotic Fund, Red Cross, Belgian relief, and relief of distress through unemployment.

Our large measure of financial success is due to the fact that we have a Finance Committee, of which the treasurer is chairman. This committee is composed of seven of the most enterprising members of the League. A secretary is appointed. This committee deals with all financial matters of moment before they come before the League proper. It is the duty of this committee to devise ways and means of raising funds. In addition to the ordinary channels, we have made use of, at different times, a banquet, lectures, concerts, and in April we gave a play—the "Minister's Bride"—which proved a great success. The cast was chosen entirely from the league membership, and it speaks well for the young people that there was not a weak character in the play.

Under the new executive, with Mrs. E. D. Cunningham as president, we anticipate a record year.

—W. ZEIGER, Cor. Sec.

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LANTERN LEAFLET.