

The Canadian . . .

## Epworth Era

ORGAN OF THE EPWORTH LEAGUES AND  
OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES  
IN THE METHODIST CHURCH.

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## Editorial.

### Here and There.

#### Incidents and Illustrations Picked up by the Way.

I AM sometimes asked how I manage to keep my paper going, when so much time is spent upon the road. There are, of course, serious disadvantages in being absent for so long from study and office, but there are some compensations. Many incidents are picked up by the way, illustrations are obtained, and information gathered which never could have been secured if the editor remained at home. Our readers are given the benefit of some of these in this issue.

TALKING to the bar-tender at a hotel, a short time ago, I asked him if he did not find himself strongly tempted to drink, being surrounded by liquors continually. He replied, "Yes, I suppose it would be a temptation, but I made a promise never to touch a drop, and I have kept it up to this hour." There can be no doubt about it, a temperance pledge is often a help in keeping young men from indulgence in strong drink. I am pleased to see that pledge signing is to be a leading feature of the prohibition campaign. Let every effort be made to induce young men and boys to sign the pledge of total abstinence.

SITTING on the upper deck of *The Premier*, a Lake Winnipeg steamer, I had a most interesting conversation with the Captain on the temperance question. He admitted that he himself was not a total abstainer, but thought it a good thing for steamboat men to let liquor alone, and related a number of incidents showing how valuable property had been lost on account of the intoxication of those to whom it had been committed. When he told me that his home was in Dakota, I asked him what he thought of

the prohibition law in force there. He was enthusiastic in its praise, and said that there was all the difference in the world between a prohibition town in Dakota, and a place like West Selkirk, where license prevails. What seemed to please him most, was the fact that his boys were growing to manhood without coming into contact with the temptations of the open bar. Such testimony ought to be worth something.

GETTING off the train at a remote station on the C.P.R. I saw a beardless boy saying good-bye to the Chairman of the District, and thanking him for the counsel and advice received. The young fellow was on his way to his first circuit to engage in pioneer work. He had no experience, and seemed altogether too young to undertake the responsibilities of a circuit, but the needs of the work are so great, that every volunteer is gladly accepted. Many of these youths make the most successful preachers. They should have the prayers of the Church.

"SUNDAY is the greatest invention for the benefit of the people, that ever was known," remarked a business man in my hearing, not long ago. It is indeed a blessing of priceless value, bringing rest to tired men and animals, so that they can go out to their work on Monday morning feeling like new beings. Apart altogether from its religious significance, the Sabbath is an institution that we could not afford to be without. Let us prize it, and defend it from its enemies.

"WE send the people of Ontario, 'number one hard' wheat, but they do not send us number one apples by any means," remarked a Manitoba lady, the other day. This is a simple statement of a most disgraceful state of affairs. The apples sent to the Northwest are often a wretched sample of fruit. There are a few good ones at the top of the barrel, but the centre is packed with very inferior stock. Manitobans want the best, and are willing to pay for it. They simply will not stand such swindling as this. If the Ontario farmers continue it, they will lose their trade in Manitoba. This seems to be a proper case for Government intervention. If one or two apple dealers should be committed to jail for fraud it would have an excellent effect.

ON board a Lake Winnipeg steamer, I sat at the same table with a young Church of England minister whose home is at York Factory on the shores of Hudson Bay. While out shooting in the early summer, his gun burst, and shattered his left hand badly. There was no doctor nearer than Winnipeg, a distance of seven hundred miles. Binding up the hand as well as possible he started off on his long journey, more than half of which had to be made by canoe and sail boat. The trip occupied five weeks, and during most of the time the poor fellow suffered excruciating agony. At last he reached the hospital at Winnipeg and received treatment. The doctors told him that by coming he had saved his hand and probably his life. One of the greatest

hardships missionaries have to suffer is the isolation from the conveniences and even the necessities of civilization.

WHAT an interesting creature a baby is! Hard, rough men seem to be wonderfully mellowed by coming into contact with "one of these little ones." It is delightful, on a train, to see how tenderly the baby is handled by men who apparently have scarcely a spark of kindness in their nature. Frequently I have seen a tired mother relieved of her charge by some soul-looking old curmudgeon, who in a moment seemed to be a boy again, smiling and chirruping to amuse the little chap.

SPEAKING of Rev. Dr. Sparling, the Principal of Wesley College, a gentleman made the remark: "The Doctor's smile is worth a thousand dollars a year to Wesley College." He was under the mark rather than over it, in his estimate. What he meant was that the genial Principal's good-natured way was the means of reaching the hearts of the people in obtaining subscriptions for the institution which he represented. His success in putting the College on a sound financial basis has been wonderful. In influencing men and women in any direction, consecrated good nature, or in other words, Christian kindness, is the mightiest force in the world.

IT may not be generally known that the Hudson's Bay Co. enforces a prohibition law throughout the vast territory which it practically controls. Years ago, it served rum freely to the Indians, and drunkenness prevailed everywhere. The Company became dissatisfied with the amount of furs they were receiving, and concluded that if there was less whiskey there would be more trade. The supply of strong drink was stopped, and sure enough the Indians began to bring the furs in much greater number. It is now possible to travel all over the north country without seeing the slightest evidence of drunkenness.

IT is marvellous how one part of the country ministers to the comfort and happiness of another! Spread out on a rock on the shore of a northern lake, during the past summer, was a meal which came from almost everywhere. There was bread from Norway House, butter from Manitoba, cheese from Toronto, peas from Bloomfield, Ont., tea from Japan, condensed milk from Truro, N.S., sugar from Montreal, pine-apple from the East Indies, and pickles from England. It was an illustration of how the various parts of the world are "members one of another," and need each other.

TRYING to give the Indians at Norway House an idea of the difference between the Sunday-school and the Epworth League, I told them that the object of the former was to "teach," and of the latter to "train" our young people. The word *train* was a poser for the interpreter, as he could not find anything in Cree to correspond exactly with it. He got out of the difficulty very nicely by saying, "In the Epworth League we