

News from the much-talked-of pantular kingdom shows that "sunny Spain" is not without the sunshine of Christian Endeavor.

The boys' Christian Endeavor society at San Sebastian has succeeded in holding within evangelical influences many boys who were slipping away. These boys gradually bring in their comrades. One member of this society has recently gone to the Theological Institute in south of Spain.

The days of the great Roman Catholic festas are semi-holidays in the schools, but a Junior society that had a meeting appointed for one of these days voted unanimously against postponing the meeting rather than a pleasant walk.

Here is a Spanish Junior's answer to the question, "What is it to have a pure heart?" "It means not being afraid to have Jesus know what I am thinking about."

Two new societies have recently been formed in the province of Huelva. This means much more in Roman Catholic Spain than it would in the United States.

"Politics are very warm in South African Republic, President Kruger's domain," writes President Clark, "and the outlook is warlike; but Dutch and English churches alike are forming Christian Endeavor societies, and perhaps this may be one of the ties that will bind in Christian love the hearts of these discordant races."

Rev. Andrew Murray, the well-known writer, and president of the South African Christian Endeavor Union, has arranged Dr. Clark's journey and meetings in Cape Colony, including Bloemfontein in the Orange-Free State, and the following places in Cape Colony, King William's Town, East London, Lovedale, Neteenbosh, Port Elizabeth, Graaf Reinet, Worcester, Stellenbosch, Wellington and Cape Town. These are in addition to the meetings in Natal and the Transvaal.

One of the most inspiring features of past Christian Endeavor Conventions has been the presentation of the various banners awarded by the United Society for excellence in Christian Endeavor work along the lines of Christian citizenship, systematic giving, and the formation of new societies. These banners are to be awarded at San Francisco, as usual.

What city union has been doing good work for the promotion of better citizenship? What union has been encouraging systematic and proportionate giving among its members? What union has organized the largest number of new societies? Write to Secretary Bier, giving the particulars.

Who will receive this year the banner now held by Scotland for the greatest proportionate increase in Young People's societies, and that other banner, now held by Mexico, for the greatest proportionate increase in Junior societies?

To whom will go the banners for the greatest absolute increase in Young People's and Junior societies, now held respectively by England and Pennsylvania?

New York last year received the banner for systematic giving, and Cleveland, O., the banners for Christian citizenship; Chicago, for the largest number of new societies. Are these unions to retain them?

To the Members of B. Y. P. U. of the Southern Association.

Dear Bros. and Sisters:—Our Associational Union convenes this year with the Baptist church at St. George, N. B., on Friday July 9th, at 3 p. m. It is the desire of your executive to have the largest and most interesting meeting yet held by our Associational Union, and this can only be done by the individual co-operation of all concerned. Will the Secretaries of the various Unions of our constituency, kindly see that reports are sent immediately to the associational Secretary, A. H. Chipman, (MESSENGER AND VISITOR) St. John. Do not let us have one Union in the Association fail to send to the Secretary their report, even if you have nothing special to report give your officers and number of members, the fact of your not being able to report much work done during the last year may perhaps prove a stimulus to perform better service in the future. In churches where at the present time there is no young people's society organized, we would urge upon the Pastors of such churches to organize immediately and send report of the same to our Secretary or if too late for that, to the Association. See to it that your Union is represented. Each Society, churches where no society exists are entitled to send to the B. Y. P. U. Association, 5 accredited delegates. It is the desire of the executive to present on behalf of our Associational Union a first class report and we cannot do it unless we have your hearty co-operation. Pray that God will greatly bless our gathering at St. George.

W. F. ROBERTS, President.

Program: of B. Y. P. U. of N. B. Southern Associational Union, for 1897.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

2.30-3 p. m. Enrollment of Delegates. 3-3.15. Opening Exercises, Address of Welcome (by St. George Society), Reply by President of Southern Associational Union, Reading and Approving of Minutes, Receiving Reports, Discussion of Reports, Election of Officers, New Business.

EVENING SESSION.

7.30-8 p. m. Song Service, Opening Exercises, Address, Music, Address, Collection, Consecration Service.

The Young People.

EDITORS, J. REV. E. E. DALEY,
A. H. CHIPMAN.

Kindly address all communications for this department to A. H. Chipman, St. John.

Prayer Meeting Topics for July 4th.

C. E. Topic.—Consecrated patriots: what will they do? Deut. 32: 1-18.

B. Y. P. U. Topic.—Freedom by the truth, John 8: 31-36.

B. Y. P. U. Daily Bible Readings.

(Baptist Union.)

Monday, July 5.—Proverbs 3: 1-12. Be not wise in thine own eyes, (vs. 7). Compare Isa. 5: 21.

Tuesday, July 6.—Proverbs 3: 13-26. The treasures of wisdom. Compare Prov. 8: 11.

Wednesday, July 7.—Proverbs 3: 27-35. The inheritance of the wise, (vs. 35). Compare Prov. 16: 21, 22.

Thursday, July 8.—Proverbs 4: 1-13. The principal thing, (vs. 7). Compare Prov. 9: 10.

Friday, July 9.—Proverbs 4: 14-27. Waver not from the right path, (vs. 25). Compare 1 Cor. 15: 58.

Saturday, July 10.—Proverbs 5. Choose wisely, "for . . . (vs. 21). Compare Jer. 32: 19.

Prayer Meeting Topic for July 4.

Freedom by the truth, John 8: 32. The truth shall make you free.

NOTES BY REV. W. N. HUTCHINS.

Our Lord's words on freedom ought to be read with an open ear. No desire lies nearer the heart of man than the desire for freedom. The presence of a foreign will irritates and makes us restless. Convince a man that he is living in bondage and you have sounded in his life the bugle blast of a crusade for emancipation.

(a) Freedom Defined: But what is freedom? Battles have been fought for freedom. But what is freedom? Would that a discriminating definition in answer to that question might be put in the heart of every young life. Many a poor, wayward, wandering child would have been saved from his waywardness and wandering if he had known in what true liberty consists. Ask numberless young men—What is liberty? and their answers will take away your surprise that so many go far astray. Popular thought, defines freedom as the external power to do what we please. But popular thought is in error. Greater and grander by far is freedom than the mere power to do what we please and heeding the voice of popular thought and shaping your life thereby. At the end you will have "nothing to give back to God but the dust of diseased bodies and the catastrophe of shipwrecked souls." In its true meaning, liberty is the power, external and internal to be and to do what we ought. A man is free who does what he pleases only when he pleases to do what is right. No man is free until he is master of himself; and no man is master of himself until he can turn all the lower passions of his being and the external circumstances of his life into servants that will aid him in his effort to rise to a higher and nobler manhood. "Every one that committeth sin is the bond-servant of sin" and in all the annals of negro and Russian slavery there is no degradation equal to that brought about by the grinding and disastrous servitude of sin. Freedom means self-mastery and self-mastery makes our appetites and base desires our servants. Freedom is the power, external and internal, to obey the voice of our higher nature. Be careful, be very careful, not to confound liberty with license.

(b) Freedom needed. The Jews said to Jesus, "we were never in bondage to any man." But the Jews were in error. They were in bondage to themselves if not to others. So all of us are more or less in bondage. Giving his own experience, the great apostle wrote, "The good which I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do. I find there a law that when I would do good, evil is present with me." In the same strain the Latin poet, Ivid, wrote, "I see the better and approve, I follow the worse." Peter the Great, overtaken in a fault, exclaimed in reproachful self-confession, "I reform my country, but I am not able to reform myself." "As soon as the conscience awakens, it awakens," as Canon Gore has said, "rather to the sense of servitude than to the sense of freedom." Sin has deprived us of our freedom. It has shackled the will with links that are stronger than steel. Bound by the evils of a bad past that have come to us through others, bound by the evils of a bad present, which we have developed for ourselves, we are the slaves of heredity and habit. One of our needs, one of our greatest needs, is moral and spiritual freedom.

(c) Freedom Provided. When freedom is so much needed, it is a blessed fact that the means of emancipation are at hand. We are slaves, but there is no power that makes it impossible for us to be free. Listen not to the voice of the evil one when he whispers that you cannot be free. Do not deceive yourself by affirming that your evil habit cannot be broken. "The truth shall make you free." By the grace of God we can do and be what we ought. By the help of Jesus Christ we are enabled to obey the voice of our nobler nature. "So the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."

But do not hope for freedom apart from the Son of God, for apart from this we can do nothing. To live independent of God is to fall under the dominion of our lower selves, "to drag the spirit at the wheel of the flesh." Freedom may be had but man's only Emancipator is the Christ of the Cross.

The Nova Scotia Western Associational Baptist Young Peoples Union.

The Nova Scotia Western Associational B. Y. P. U., met in annual session in the Baptist church Milton, Queens Co., Friday June 3rd at 3 p. m. A helpful devotional service was led by Rev. J. Webb. After the enrollment of delegates and appointment of nominating committee, an address of welcome was delivered by Mr. D. McMinard representing the Milton B. Y. P. U. Rev. J. W. Brown responded, Z. L. Fash Sec'y. Treas., read a digest of the reports of the various local societies. A committee was appointed to draw up resolutions in reference to better means of communications between the local societies and the associational officers.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—Pres., Rev. W. L. Archibald, Milton Queens Co.; 1st Vice Pres., Austin F. Bill, Lockport; 2nd Vice Pres., Sheldon Poole, Yarmouth; Sec'y. Treas., Rev. B. H. Thomas, Digby. Rev. N. B. Dunn, read a paper on "B. Y. P. U. Life how can it be best maintained?" Discussion followed. Voted, That the special com. be asked to bring in a resolution concerning the Christian Culture Course

The following members with the officers of the association were added to the Exec., Com.:—Geo. Fitch, Osborne, Shelburne Co.; C. B. Cain, Yarmouth, Yarmouth Co.; Dr. McRaeMinard, Milton Queens, Queens Co.; Harry Stairall, Annapolis, Annapolis; Harvey Weir, Smith's Cove, Digby. Adjourned. Friday evening, 7.30 o'clock. Pres., W. L. Archibald in the chair. Scripture lesson read by Rev. E. L. Steeves, prayer by Pastor E. Quick.

The following addresses were given:—"The educational feature, and the plan for the coming year" by Rev. J. W. Brown of Nictaux; "The B. Y. P. U. what is it?" by Rev. B. H. Thomas, of Digby. "Has the B. Y. P. U. movement fulfilled the prophecies of its founders?" by Rev. B. N. Nobles of Bear River. These addresses were followed by a well conceived and excellently rendered Banner exercise. Each county had a special color, and each delegation responded through its standard bearer. Annapolis and Queens county delegations sang appropriate songs while their banners were being carried to the platform. An offering was taken and the most enthusiastic platform meetings in the history of our Association B. Y. P. U. closed.

June 21st 9 a. m. Association called to order by Pres. Archibald. Com. on resolutions reported. 1st. That we recommend the election of officers in all B. Y. P. Unions take place in January and July. 2nd That the Associational Secretary be requested to forward through the Co. Sec. blank forms to each Union and thereby ascertain the names of the newly elected officers. Resolution—"Whereas, as the MESSENGER AND VISITOR has undertaken to supply our young people with literature on the C. C. C."

Therefore resolved, that we recommend our young people to use the MESSENGER AND VISITOR in so far as that paper supplies our need."

Voted.—To extend the hearty thanks of the association to the local Union for their efforts in providing for the success of the banner exercise. Adjourned with prayer by Rev. D. H. McQuarrie.

Burlington, Kings County, N. S.

On Friday evening, May 14th, 1897, a B. Y. P. U. was organized here with a membership of twenty-one. Eighteen of these are active members. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. G. L. Bishop; Vice-President, Jennie Hall; Secretary, Charlie Gould; Cor. Secretary, Etna Ogilvie; Treasurer, Minnie Graves. Lately quite a number have accepted Christ and many more are seeking Him. We hope, with Christ's help that our Union may be a complete success, and that through our earnest work and prayers many who do not know the glory of our King may be brought into full light and love.

ETNA OGILVIE, Cor. Sec'y.

June 16th.

Cheggoggin, N. S.

At the semi-annual meeting, the following officers were elected for the ensuing half year:—President, Margaret Doane; Vice-President, Edric Lann; Rec. Secretary, Ethel H. Corning; Treasurer, John C. Corning; Cor. Secretary, Jennie C. Allen. The meetings are quite largely attended. Two new members have joined since our last meeting. We pray that God may bless us even more abundantly during the present term. We recently held a social at the parsonage, inviting the Overton Union with us. The evening was pleasantly spent in music and games and although the evening was rather disagreeable, quite a large number were present.

JENNIE C. ALLEN, Cor. Sec'y.