

## OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

### SERVICE.

Something, my God, for Thee,  
 Something for Thee;  
 That each day's setting sun may bring  
 Some Penitential offering;  
 In Thy dear name some kindness done;  
 To Thy dear name some wonderer won;  
 Some trial meekly borne for Thee,  
 Dear Lord, for Thee.

Something, my God, for Thee,  
 Something for Thee;  
 For the great love that Thou hast given,  
 For the great hope of Thee and heaven,  
 My soul her first allegiance brings,  
 And upward plumes her heavenward wings,  
 Nearer, my God, to Thee,  
 Nearer to Thee.

The Young People's Union of the Toronto Presbytery held their annual meeting and conference in the lecture-room of St. James' Square Presbyterian church, Toronto, on Monday last. The Rev. J. McP. Scott, President of the Union, occupied the chair at the morning Session. Business and Nominating Committees were appointed to present reports at the afternoon Session. A paper of much interest upon "Deeper Spiritual Life" was read by the Rev. R. P. McKay, which was followed by a conference upon the paper, led by Mr. W. H. Frost.

The report of the Executive Committee showed the affairs of the Union to be in a flourishing condition.

The following officers were appointed—President, Rev. J. A. Brown, Agincourt; 1st Vice-President, Dr. R. G. McLaughlin, Toronto; 2nd Vice-President, Miss Kirkwood, Brampton; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Isabel Christie, Toronto; Recording Secretary, Miss Anna Flaws, Toronto; Treasurer, Mr. J. Arbuthnot, Toronto; Committee, Mr. James French of Unionville, Rev. J. C. Tibb of Eglinton, Mr. T. L. Moffatt, jun., of Weston, Mr. McKenzie of Toronto, Miss Ida Armstrong of Toronto. Rev. J. McCaul read a paper on "Higher Standard of Giving, and How to Develop It." A Conference on Committee work followed at which three-minute papers were read as follows:—Missionary, Miss C. Kirkwood, Brampton; Temperance, Miss E. Attwood, Toronto; Lookout, Miss C. Dickson, Newmarket; Prayer Meeting, Mrs. I. Hos. Hood, Markham; Social, Mr. Wilson, Bloor St. church, Toronto; Sabbath school, Mr. A. B. Moffatt, Weston.

Rev. Mr. McKinley, of Toronto, then delivered an address on "Good Citizenship." The report of the Business Committee followed, after which the meeting was adjourned until 8 o'clock in the evening.

During the evening a public meeting was held in the church. The Rev. Dr. Gregg, Moderator of the Presbytery, presided, and addresses were given by the Rev. Dr. Warden and the Rev. Dr. McTavish.

The Rev. Dr. Warden spoke more especially of the work of the home missions. The Young People's Societies he said, are doing a great work. There is a large field for the home mission and he thought that the Presbyterian Church of Canada was doing more and better missionary work than any other branch of the Church of Christ. In the Northwest Territories alone there are about 400 Presbyterian mission stations. This work was greatly aided by the grants received from the augmentation funds. The small mission fields, which are attended to by students, have in many cases become so prosperous as to give a large sum towards the maintenance of a pastor, and with the aid of the augmentation funds have contributed large sums to help on the mission work. In its foreign mission the Presbyterian Church had been more blessed by God than any other church. Dr. Warden gave many instances of the church's success in Trinidad, Demerara, India, China, Formosa, and the New Hebrides. \$150,000 had been raised and expended on this work during the past year.

The Rev. Dr. McTavish spoke of the responsibility of the young Presbyterians to the mission works of the church. The increased opportunities brought increased responsibility. The opportunities must not be allowed to pass. An instance of the danger of so doing was given by the western States. When the great tide of population was flowing into that country the people of the east were building great churches and surrounding

themselves with every comfort and were occupied with theological disputes the western settlers were becoming barbarians. He hoped this would not be repeated in the case of the settlers in the Klondike gold fields. He urged the young people to make use of their opportunities and resources for the furtherance of the Mission cause in these far-off lands before it was too late.

## MISSION FIELD.

### NEED OF CHRISTIAN EFFORT.

In Christianity this is pre-eminently the age of opportunity. Never before did the world offer to her anything like the same open field as at this moment. The call to the Church is "Go forth and preach the Gospel to every creature."

The missionary societies of the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Continental Europe, Asia, Africa, and Australia number 249, with 4,604 stations and 15,200 out-stations. There are 11,659 missionaries, 64,299 native laborers and 1,121,609 communicants. There are 913,478 persons under instruction and the income in all these countries is \$12,988,687.

Many souls in India are waiting for freedom to confess Christ. A high caste Hindu Nicodemus came by night to Dr. Chamberlain recently, and in leaving said: "Sir I am not a Christian. I am still regarded as a devout Hindu. I still perform enough Hindu ceremonies to avoid suspicion, but in my heart I dare not deny the claims of the Bible." Caste, wealth, position, family, all hold him back. In the end he acknowledge he would have to accept Christianity at all cost. "But how can I do it now and bring ruin upon my family?" Will you pray for that man? There are thousands like him in the far east.

There was a time when I was altogether indifferent to missions, and would have avoided a mission station rather than have visited it. But the awful, pressing claims of the unchristianized nations which I have seen, have taught me that the work of their conversion to Christ is one to which one would gladly give influence and whatever else God has given one.—Isabella Bird Bishop.

Is it impossible for all men to be reached by a few men unaided. There are millions of souls who will never hear the Gospel unless they hear it through the rank and file of Christ's followers. The truth that every Christian must become a missionary is thus altogether rational. It is only through the medium of all His disciples that our Lord can touch all parts of this great, sinning world.

### THE PHONOGRAPH FOR MISSIONARIES.

Mr. Alfred Storey has written in a London paper a proposal for teaching languages by means of the phonograph. The idea has caught on apparently. It is to have primers with progressive lessons, from the alphabet onward, impressed on the recording cylinders of the phonograph, which are then read off again and again by the learner until he has mastered the lessons. If this plan can be utilised for the teaching of languages, it is suggested that use could be made of it for missionaries in some such way as this. Primers of Chinese, Hindustanee, and Arabic would be prepared in those countries by educated natives. The record cylinders would be sent home here, and the intending missionary could learn much of the language by passing them through the phonograph, and attentively catching the sounds of the words and sentences, besides learning the grammar. Thus the first year, which is now spent abroad at great cost of money, and sometimes of life, would be spent at home cheaply and safely, and the missionary would go out the next year capable of speaking to the natives and knowing all that an ordinary grammar or primer can convey. The expense of preparing the "records" abroad, and providing a machine at home for the reading and learning is inconsiderable compared with the loss and outlay under the present system. The suggestion comes from one of our ministers, and seems well worth serious consideration by the Missions Board and the Conveners.