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A. C. CREWS, Editor.



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BOIL IT DOWN.

If you've got a thought that's happy,
Boil it down;
Make it short and crisp and snappy—
Boil it down.
When your brain its coin has minted,
Down the page your pen has sprinted,
If you want your effort printed,
Boil it down.

Take out every surplus letter—
Boil it down,
Fewer syllables the better—
Boil it down.
Make your meaning plain—express it
So we'll know, not merely guess it;
Then, my friend, ere you address it,
Boil it down.

Boil out all the extra trimmings—,
Boil it down;
Skim it well, then skim the trimmings,
Boil it down.
When you're sure 't would be a sin to
Cut another sentence into,
Send it on, and we'll begin to
Boil it down.

—Selected.

The Class Meeting.—Bishop Vincent says that "the class meeting is to the Church what the heating apparatus is to the building." Judging from the condition of the "heating apparatus" in some of our churches the temperature must be rather low.

Pillars and Props.—The late Dr. Maltbie D. Babcock, who possessed the power of putting a good deal of truth into a very few words, once said, "If a man is to be a pillar in the temple of his God by-and-bye, he must be some kind of a prop in God's house to-day."

A Good Example.—President Roosevelt has set a good example by refusing to have a docked horse in his stable. Docking is a barbarous custom, which has absolutely nothing in its favor. Instead of adding to the beauty of the noble animal which serves man so faithfully, it deforms him. The State of Colorado is in advance of any other part of the country in seeking to do away with this cruel custom. There a law prohibits the importation of docked horses into the State, and punishes severely for docking in the State.

Work for the New Year.—The *Congregationalist*, of Boston, recently inquired of two hundred Congregational ministers throughout the country as to the lines of work upon which they were expecting to put the most emphasis during

the coming year. Various answers were given, but the majority said that they were going to reach the boys and girls, to make the Sunday-school more effective, and to hold normal classes for young people. These are certainly good resolutions. No part of a pastor's work can be more important than work among the young.

Develop the Young Members.

—Rev. Dr. Clark, President of the Christian Endeavor Society, has recently been emphasizing the importance of looking after the younger "young folks." "If we have strong Young People's Societies," says Dr. Clark, "we must have Junior societies to train new recruits every year. Our secretary's statistics prove that in the United States there are only one-half as many Junior societies as there are Young People's societies; in Canada, only one-fifth as many; in foreign lands, only one-sixth as many." These proportions should be changed.

Women to the Front.—The new constitution of the Methodist Episcopal Church settles the much vexed question of the right of women to sit as delegates in the General Conference, as they are accorded the privilege. Those who voted for this change did so on the ground that as women constitute much the larger share of the Church's membership, and are doing much of its work, they should be represented in its chief councils. Some of the papers remark that the opportunity of sitting in the General Conference will not be very generally used by the women of the Church. That remains to be seen.

Debt Paying Extraordinary.—A little over a month ago the aggregate debts on the Methodist Episcopal churches of New York City was estimated at about \$700,000. Under the impulse of a movement to raise a million for metropolitan Methodism, four of the larger churches have lately burned their mortgages, totalling nearly \$200,000. Other churches have raised large sums for debts, improvements, or new buildings, and Methodism in the great city is feeling the mighty impulse of a great revival in giving. It is expected that the Sunday-school children of the city will raise \$100,000.

Beware of Dreaming.—There are many people who are only waiting for grand opportunities. But there is an immense difficulty in getting them in the meantime to do the next thing, the nearest thing, a very simple thing. If the prophet bade them do some great

thing, why, they would do it with trumpets and songs and drums; but to do the little duty, the daily task, the common round, is too much to be expected of genius. Beware of genius, if it is not translatable into some kind of action and charity. It is not a dream from heaven, but a nightmare—from whence I know not.—*Joseph Parker, D.D.*

How to Retain our Young People.

—Dr. Charles H. Kelly, Book Steward of the English Wesleyan Church, in discussing the question, "How to retain our Young People?" gives the following advice, which many calling themselves Methodists would do well to heed: "Do not talk Methodism down, or compare it at all unfavorably with other Churches, in family conversation or elsewhere. Ministers and other Methodists who do this frequently deserve the contempt of all who hear them—and richly deserve something more drastic. When visitors do it in the houses of our friends they violate one of the simplest laws of hospitality. Methodist hosts do not wish such persons to curse their children by such conversation. A second opportunity should never be permitted to any man who so offends. The visit over, he should never be invited or allowed to repeat it. When he departs he should carry with him a suitable reproof."

A Great Itinerant.—Mr. A. Birrell, a member of the British Parliament, who is regarded as one of the most brilliant of English essayists, has issued a volume of miscellaneous articles, the most noteworthy of which is a sketch of John Wesley as he is revealed in his Journal. He says: "No single figure influenced so many minds, no single voice touched so many hearts. No other man did such a life's work for England. John Wesley was one of the most typical figures of the eighteenth century and certainly the most strenuous. He contested the three kingdoms in the cause of Christ during a campaign which lasted forty years. He did it for most part on horseback. He paid more turpikes than any man who ever bestrode a beast. Eight thousand miles was his annual record for many a long year, during each of which he seldom preached less frequently than a thousand times. Had he but preserved his scores at all the inns where he lodged they would have made by themselves a history of prices. And throughout it all he never knew what depression of spirits meant, though he had much to try him—suits in chancery and a jealous wife. In the course of this unparalleled contest Wesley visited again and again the most out-of-the-way districts, the remotest corners of England."