

The NEW READING COURSE

The Second Book and Its Author

The Young People's Wesley.

This splendid little volume of 204 pages contains all the essential facts in the career of the most remarkable man of his century. It is the purpose of the author to give us a faithful view of his origin, early life, conversion, marvellous ministry, doctrines, persecutions, and triumphant end.

No life of Wesley has ever been written in which so much of valuable information has been pressed into so brief a space, and containing so complete a description of what is essential to be known of the man. It is not a prosy volume, made up of dull, bony matter, but is full of inspiring facts which stir the heart to greater religious activity. It is really a book for the million. Our people, old and young, including the thousands of our Epworthians, should be urged to read and become familiar with its contents. The preachers should urge the people to this for their spiritual good.

It might be read with great profit by every member of our Church, and by all Methodists everywhere. It is certain that its reading would give them clear, definite, and correct views of the life and work of the founder of Methodism.

It is a graphic, suggestive, well analyzed, and picturesque account of the great founder of Methodism. It can be read in an hour or two, and ought to be read by hundreds of thousands of people who are ignorant of the details of Wesley's career.

It is the newest, cheapest, and, for its purpose, the best life of Wesley. It is designed to present, in complete form, so as to be quickly read and easily remembered, all the important facts in a great life. You will learn here more concerning the father of Methodism than can be found elsewhere in equal space. If you are a Methodist, you need to know the ways in which God led John Wesley, and the faithfulness with which he followed the divine guidance. If you are not a Methodist, nor even a Christian, you need to know the wonderful contents of this sparkling volume.

It is sure to be read widely. If we mistake not, it will be the genesis of a movement for a general study of the history, biography, and literature of Methodism in general and our own Church in particular. This will be particularly appropriate during the bi-centenary year.

It will be read more widely, and hence do more good, than a larger book. It deserves to be translated into the language of our missions and carried to all parts of the earth.

Rev. William McDonald.

Rev. William McDonald was born in the State of Maine, March 1, 1820. His father dying when he was but fifteen years of age and leaving a large and dependent family, he was thrown upon his own resources.

In 1836 he apprenticed himself to a gentleman in Belfast, a town a few miles away, to learn the painter's trade, including house, ship, carriage, and sign painting.

He was four years, however, in the painter's trade. In 1840 he was licensed to preach, and took a circuit. In 1843 he joined the Maine Conference, and served several years in the eastern part of Maine.

In 1868 he was elected a member of the National Camp-meeting Association,

and became its vice-president, a position he held for sixteen years. Upon the death of the president, Rev. J. S. Inskip, he was elected president, which position he held for ten years. During these years great national camp-meetings were held in twenty-one States of the Union, from Maine to California. In 1870 he entered upon the work of an evangelist, in connection with Rev. J. S. Inskip. They first responded to a call from the Pacific Coast, to hold meetings in Sacramento, Santa Clara, and San Francisco; and, on their return, a meeting in Salt Lake City. These meetings were held in a large tabernacle that would accommodate from four to five thousand. They also held meetings in many of the largest churches in the country, North and South.

In 1880 they held a pressing call from England and the Orient, to which they responded, holding meetings in seven cities and towns in England, including London, Liverpool, Hull, Leeds, etc.; also in Bombay, Poona, Allahabad, Bareilly, Lucknow, Cawnpore, Calcutta, and Jubbulpore, India. On their return they visited the Holy Land, and held meetings for one week in the city of Rome. In 1890 he made a second evangelistic tour to England, holding meetings in London, Bristol, Nottingham, Manchester, Bradstreet, and Shipley. In 1870 he was elected editor of *The Advocate of Holiness*, a monthly published in Boston, and then in Philadelphia. This periodical was succeeded by *The Christian Witness*, a weekly published in Boston. He was editor of the two periodicals for twenty-five years. In addition to his editorial and evangelistic work, he has written and published several books on different subjects.

Dr. McDonald is enjoying a peaceful old age in his home in West Somerville, Mass., a suburb of Boston. He lives on the sunny side, and is greatly beloved by his neighbors and the Methodists of New England in general. His pen is still measurably active, as proved by frequent contributions to *Zion's Herald*.

Hints for Epworth League Reading Circles.

1. Determine that you will have a Reading Circle.
2. Let each reader buy a set of the books.
3. If this is not practicable in all cases, let three club together and divide the books.
4. If even that seems out of the question, a small circle can club together and buy two or three sets of books.
5. Do not fail to put a set in your league or Sunday-school library.
6. Be more concerned for quality and faithful work than for numbers.
7. The course can be arranged to cover a longer or shorter period than six months.
8. You can study one book at a time, or all at the same time.
9. If one at a time, you can begin where you please, and end where you like.
10. The work may be pursued chiefly in class form, with a teacher for each book, or with a separate leader for each lesson.
11. Or it may take the more popular form of a literary programme, consisting of talks, essays, recitations, music, lectures, etc.
12. Plan to extend the influence of the circle, and indirectly to reach as many as possible.

13. This can be done in various ways, namely: By reading a chapter aloud to some young friend who is not a member. By inviting friends and other members of the chapter to your meetings. By holding a number of open meetings in which you utilize the talent of the neighborhood as indicated hereafter. By having two or three public lectures on pertinent topics during the winter.

14. Perhaps a combination of the class and programme methods is the ideal. The one preserves the authority of the circle, and the other popularizes the work and shares its benefits.

15. Meetings should be held in the chapter weekly or semi-monthly, under the auspices of the department of literary work, in which the subjects of the above course should be presented, either in short talks by the members, or in addresses, or by class instruction. The course this year is especially adapted for class work. The entire course may be greatly enriched by collateral references and by a lecture course.

16. If one plan does not work well, try another. Resolve not to be defeated.

17. Talk up the Reading Circle everywhere.

18. Study the books thoroughly, have them at hand, tell what you read to others.

19. Do not make out a fixed schedule for the whole season, for several reasons, but make out one or two good programmes ahead.

20. Publish your programme ahead, in the paper, by a mimeograph, by a league bulletin in the corridor, and by announcement in the various services.

21. Come to the meeting prepared to study, not to be entertained. Come whether you have made adequate preparation or not.

22. Come determined, if necessary, to take part, whether you are on the programme or not. Have some brief, appropriate contribution ready for emergencies.

23. In class work banish all formality, that each one may talk and ask questions with the freedom of the family circle around the evening lamp.

24. Determine to finish the course and pass the examination.

25. When needed, send to the Central Office for examination questions.—*Epworth Herald*.

The Youth's Companion in 1903.

During 1903 *The Youth's Companion* will publish in 52 weekly issues 6 serial stories, each a book in itself, reflecting American life in home, camp, and field; 50 special articles contributed by famous men and women—travellers, essayists, soldiers, sailors, statesmen, and men of affairs; 200 thoughtful and timely editorial articles on important public and domestic questions; 150 short stories by the best of living story-writers—stories of character, stories of achievement, stories of humor; 1,000 short notes on current events, and discoveries in the field of science and industry; 2,000 bright and amusing anecdotes, items of strange and curious knowledge, poems, and sketches.

This is what *The Youth's Companion* offers its readers during 1903. And the quality of it is far equal to the quantity. It is edited for the entire family. The busiest people read it because it is condensed, accurate, and helpful.

A full announcement of the new volume will be sent with sample copies of the paper to any address on request. The new subscription for 1903 who sends \$1.75 for the new volume at once will receive free all the remaining issues for 1902, including the Double Holiday Numbers; also *The Companion Calendar* for 1903, lithographed in twelve colors and gold. *The Youth's Companion*, 144 Berkeley Street, Boston, Mass.