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Impressed the Public.—*Christendom*, the undenominational religious journal, of Chicago, says that "the Detroit International Convention certainly impressed the public with the evangelizing zeal and activity of the Methodist Church."

Lay Workers.—In all the churches there seems to be a growing interest in the development of lay workers. Presbyterians in the United States are giving more attention to this subject than Methodists. There is large room for a revival in regard to the use of laymen in evangelistic and other Christian work in our church.

A Tireless Reader.—If John Wesley were alive to-day he would undoubtedly be an ardent advocate of the Epworth League Reading Course. He was not only a tireless reader himself, but was constantly stimulating others to cultivate habits of reading. Books were about his only companions in his lonely and wandering life.

A Valuable Institution.—The Railway Young Men's Christian Associations are growing and prospering. So highly are they esteemed by the railroad companies that they bear a large share of the expense of maintaining them. This is not because they are specially interested in religious work, but it is regarded purely as a matter of business. It pays in many ways to maintain institutions of this kind.

Our General Superintendent.—Through the courtesy of the Detroit International Convention Committee we are able to publish this month the fine picture of our General Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Carman, which adorned the convention programme. It is taken from one of his latest photographs, and is an excellent likeness. Dr. Carman greatly delighted the people at Detroit in all his addresses.

Make Them Companions.—Hamilton Mable says: "To get at the heart of books we must live with and in them; we must make them our constant companions; we must turn them over and over in thought, slowly penetrating their innermost meaning, and when we possess their thought, we must work it into our own thought." Following out this idea it is easy to see how valuable a reading circle may be, as it affords the opportunity for kindred minds to meet together to talk of and discuss what they have been reading.

Cards vs. Books.—Card playing seems to be taking the place of reading among a large class in England, and is said to be interfering seriously with many profitable and helpful pursuits. The publishers and booksellers hold it responsible for a marked depression in the book trade. The *London Outlook* says: "A stock of five hundred copies of playing cards is more easily sold than two copies of any book. The book shops remain empty. The most adroit advertisements of publishers fail to incite interest in books among a card-playing and card-ridden public." If this be true it is a sad condition of affairs.

Youth.—Bishop Vincent gives utterance to some weighty truths when he says: "Young life is the beginning of that serious and responsible reality we call life. It is the bud from which are to come blossom and fruit. It is the early light which foretells sunrise and midday and sunset and evening. It is the first few steps of a long journey. It is the embarking and the sailing down the bay—the bay that opens into the wide sea beyond. What young life makes of itself determines very largely what later life and old age are to be. The molds of character are laid during the first twenty years of one's existence. To-day makes to-morrow."

The Gideons.—The annual convention of the Gideons has recently been held. "The Gideons" is a society of Christian commercial travelers, numbering about three thousand members. It has been organized a little less than four years, and is growing at the rate of about one hundred and thirty members per month. The object of this society is to create a higher standard of living among traveling men. In the state of Wisconsin, where the Gideons are strongest, through their influence seventy-four hotels have taken out their bars. In the city of Chicago, where they number three hundred members, they conduct from five to eight religious services every Sunday.

The Benefits.—In referring to the benefits of a great gathering like the Detroit International Convention, Dr. Spencer, of the *Central Christian Advocate*, says: "The crowds at the Detroit Convention came from the people; the rich were not there; the far-away districts were represented. As we saw them on the noble river, or in the parks at Niagara Falls, or on Lake Erie, we were very glad that some arrangement was possible whereby with absolute safety and amid inspiring companionships, songs

and conversations, they could move about in God's world, and see it, and learn it and appreciate it, the while they were being filled with high thoughts of the kingdom of Christ and their honored relation to it, by the gatherings in the great convention. We do not waste money by giving a little to the ennobling and enriching of our own life."

A Faithful Servant Gone.—Probably very few of those who read a paper or book ever think of the amount of painstaking toil that is necessary to produce it. The mechanical work alone calls for experienced skill by men whose names never appear in public. One of these, Mr. R. Min, the superintendent of our printing department, has recently been called away, after twenty years of service in the Methodist Book Room. The printing of our Epworth League Reading Course, the preparation of this paper, and much other work connected with the Epworth League, was under his direction, and everything was well done. Mr. Min was a reliable and faithful man, who will be greatly missed.

Methodism's Strength.—The editor of *Toronto Saturday Night*, in commenting on the Wesley Bicentenary celebration, after speaking of the numerical strength of Methodism and its great educational work, adds: "But when all is said and done, Methodism's strength is not in the number and wealth of its adherents, the size and costliness of its temples, or its superb organization. Its growth has been due mainly to the spiritual fervor and intensity which, on the whole, has animated its ministry and membership—that reviving enthusiasm which was Wesley's and Whitefield's, and which he and his co-workers bequeathed to the church they founded. The world was not slow to recognize John Wesley's greatness of purpose or to acknowledge his spiritual grandeur. Despite backsliders and the occasional wolf within the fold, the world has not been slow to recognize these same attributes in the church which derived its being from Wesley's genius and enthusiasm. John Wesley's birth may be commemorated by Methodists, but the inspiration of his life and achievements can never be monopolized by any sect. His is one of the great figures of Protestantism, one of the great forces in the religious evolution of the Anglo-Saxon nations, and in a sense which he could neither have intended nor foreseen his most characteristic saying, "All the world's my parish," has been justified by the marvelous growth of his fame and influence in the world."