



CLIFF-DWELLINGS, ARIZONA, U. S.

sion is thirty-five miles long. Mail only once a week. The people frequently, during the winter, spring and fall, are about as good as exiled—being shut out from the outside world owing to no roads."

A missionary in Newfoundland writes: "The papers are a great boon to us. They are eagerly sought after by adults as well as children, and eternity alone will reveal the amount of good done by them. Methodism has a hard fight here. When going about among these people, I have often thanked God that I had papers that I could give them so full of the Gospel message."

Another missionary in Newfoundland writes: "In some of the poorer homes, no other literature—periodical or otherwise—is ever seen. The parents con the papers almost as eagerly as the youngsters. Our enterprising Canadian Church is doing a grand work in the distribution of healthy literature for juvenile capacities."

A brother in British Columbia writes: "This mission is over two hundred miles in length, and we can only get a few scholars in a place; but we must do what we can to save them. Although a very hard field, we rejoice that the work of God is making some advancement."

In every case, it will be remembered, that even the poorest school is expected to pay what it can toward the grant of papers made. Last year the schools receiving help to the amount of \$3,468.57, contributed in part payment therefor, \$1,403.17.

Supplying just such needs as these all over the continent, from Labrador to the borders of Alaska; and helping them to plant new schools wherever a handful of children can be gathered together, and a loving heart to point them to the Saviour, is the work that the Sunday-school Aid and Extension Fund is doing.

SYMPATHY is the true warmth and light of the home, which binds together mistresses and servants, as well as husband and wife, father, mother, and children; and the home cannot be truly happy where it is not present, knitting together the whole household in one bond of domestic affection and concord.

Epworth League.

The Epworth League of the Canadian Methodist Church.

BY REV. D. DAVIES MOORE, A.M.

WE clip from an English magazine this graphic account of the Epworth League by a Prince Edward Island minister:

The motto of this guild of young people is the ringing bugle-note of John Wesley: "I desire to form a league, offensive and defensive, with every soldier of Jesus Christ."

Again, our shorter, working motto expresses its whole aim and purpose: "Look up! Lift up!"

The idea did not directly originate in Canada, but in the Methodism of the United States. It is strictly a development, there and here, being the re-organization and affiliation of a number of sporadic and local associations into one guild, combining the excellences and throwing out the objectionable features of the pre-existing associations. Last May these various societies met, through their representatives, in the city of Cleveland, U. S., and agreed to disband and re-form as a united body, known as "The Epworth League." The result has been phenomenal. Already over 1,600 branches have been formed, with great memberships, and that during the portion of the year least favourable. It is regarded by the most acute Bishop of the American Church as one of the most important developments of modern Methodism, taking hold as it does of the young life of the church and consecrating it to Christian culture and Christian service as no other instrument has ever yet done. Canadian Methodism, for some years, has been independently feeling her way in a similar direction. Our Working Bands, Chatauqua Societies, and local guilds have accomplished much, but the need has been felt of a vaster and more genuinely Methodistic association, uniting the youthful members of our churches and congregations.

Some years ago a noted Roman Catholic prelate uttered ringing words that penetrated and awak-

ened in all directions. He said, "Give me the boys and girls of Canada until they are twelve years old and then you can do what you please with them." We have been proposing ever since to keep at least our own boys and girls, and have been anxiously trying to devise means to prevent the enormous loss of young blood under which, as a church, we have suffered in the past, and have also noted with sympathy the similar trouble with you in England. At the last general conference a strong committee was appointed to look after these interests, but no scheme having sufficient width and "go" presented itself, until we saw spring up in a day, "across the line" that surprise—"The Epworth League." It was at once evident that this was what we were after and with the consent of our "Cousins" immediately set about stealing their plan.

The General Conference Committee was again called and it was decided to use the American idea, as the nucleus of a league adapted to all the requirements of the case in Canada. The result is our "Canadian Epworth League." It has already met with the heartiest support of our General Superintendents, most successful pastors and Sunday-school workers. This is at once the evidence that while the League proposes to fill a wide gap it does not propose to clash with any already established departments of church or Sunday-school. The direct object in view is to promote an earnest, intelligent, practical, and loyal spiritual life in the young people of our church, to aid them in constant growth in grace and in the attainment of purity of heart.

"The Epworth League" formed by said General Conference Committee is the parent society, with which all local leagues are to be in affiliation and auxiliary. The Sunday-school Board of the General Conference is the central governing body. All local societies and officers are under the approval of pastors and quarterly official boards. A form of constitution characterized by the best Canadian elasticity has been carefully prepared. The work of the league is divided into six departments, each under the charge of a committee. They are—(1) Christian work, (2) Literary work, (3) Social work, (4) Entertainment, (5) Correspondence, (6) Finance. The heads of these departments, with the President, constitute the League.

An admirable series of reading courses is included in No. 2. These comprise the Bible, the Doctrines, History, Biography, Travel, Art, Science, with special reference to Methodistic literature. Diplomas and seals are awarded to those who pursue the series, which (as now issued) comprises 26 courses. By a special arrangement the books are to be prepared for the guilds in the best and cheapest of forms possible. The Bible will be studied uniformly and systematically, with all the best modern helps. The department of Christian effort, comprising evangelistic, temperance, and social purity work, will be a splendid factor in the scheme. It is here we purpose keeping our thousands of annually converted young people, and saving the enormous drain into the Salvation Army, and other bodies, that has shrunken our figures in