

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

SALUTATORY.

At the request of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly "For Special Oversight of the Young People's Societies of the Church," the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW has generously opened its columns to a member of that Committee to conduct a department in the interest of the Young People's Societies. The Committee hopes through this use of the press to do much to deepen the spiritual life and direct the energies of the Young People. In commencing this department we desire to have a short preliminary chat with our young friends concerning the nature and scope of the department, and to invite their co-operation in making it all that a Young People's Department should be. Our aim will be to make this page so interesting and helpful that our readers will welcome eagerly the weekly visits of the REVIEW and be aided thereby in doing more and better work in the organization to which they belong.

WHAT TO EXPECT.

In these columns you may expect to find Communications from the Assembly's Committee to the Young People.

Information concerning the great Missionary, Educational and Benevolent Schemes of the Church.

Short articles calculated to increase the knowledge of the Young People with respect to the History, Doctrines and Polity of our Church.

Interesting paragraphs intended to quicken the spiritual life of the Young People and stimulate them to practical effort in Christian work.

Fresh methods of conducting the meetings and of carrying on the work of the Societies.

News of what young people of our own and other Churches are doing.

Bright descriptions and interesting incidents connected with Christian work among the young.

HOW YOU MAY HELP.

In order to make this department thoroughly practical and stimulating we require the help of all our Young People. Unless all the Societies rally to our assistance these columns cannot be as helpful as they ought to be. We, therefore, invite correspondence from our readers containing information that would be of general interest. Items, such as the following, will be always welcome: Interesting meetings held; fresh plans of conducting meetings, or of carrying on the work of the Society; missionary or other definite Christian work undertaken; brief reports of Presbyterian organizations; and, indeed, anything which might prove suggestive to wide-awake young people. There are many hundred Young People's Societies under the control of sessions. Let us hear from you.

RESPONSIBILITY OF THE COMMITTEE.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that the Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies is responsible only for such matter in this department as may come directly from the Committee. Such communications will be indicated. The responsibility for all other matter rests solely with the contributor in charge of the department.

TWO IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS.

Two questions of great importance to all Young People's Societies are: The proper method of raising money; and the best use to make of it after it is raised. The following resolution, passed by the Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies, is commended as furnishing most satisfactory answers to these questions:

"That Societies be recommended: (1) To adopt some systematic and voluntary method of raising funds. (2) To give the foremost place to the support of work connected with their own congregation, and to the great missionary, educational and benevolent Schemes of the Church."

The first recommendation, as to the method of raising money, is one that should be adopted by every Society. It is sensible, and it is scriptural. No better method has been devised than that suggested by Paul to the Christians at Corinth: "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him." This method is voluntary, systematic and proportionate. It is better than all the teas, bazaars and entertainments ever undertaken. Try this method in your society. Let every member contribute some definite amount regularly. Though the sum given each week, or each month, may be small, yet in the aggregate it will be found to be considerable. "Many mickle make a muckle."

If the question of raising money is an important one, so is the one of spending it. Many ways of disposing of the funds of the societies might be suggested. The Committee seeks to indicate the best. While, as individuals, the young people should contribute, according to the method employed in their own congregations, to the support of ordinances, we think that the funds of the Societies should be devoted mainly to the missionary and other Schemes of the Church. The Committee does not undertake to decide which of the Schemes are most worthy of support. This is left entirely with the Societies themselves to determine. It is very important, however, that every Society should make some contribution to one or more of the Schemes. There is urgent need of funds by several of the Committees in order to overtake the work in neglected districts, or to prevent a serious deficit. Let every Society come forward this year with a gift to these Schemes. Even if the contribution is small, it will be welcomed as an indication of the willingness of the Young People to assist the Church in all branches of her work.

WHAT OTHERS ARE DOING.

The Christian Endeavor Societies of Stenpenville Presbytery, Ohio, have arranged to support a foreign missionary, Rev. Charles W. Swan, of Canton, China.

The brotherhood of Andrew and Philips has 100 chapters in the Presbyterian Church in the United States and Canada. It began in the Reformed Church in 1888, and now numbers 8,000 members.

At a meeting of a Christian Endeavor Society in Lexington, K. Y., a call was made for those who intended becoming missionaries. Five members of the Society, four young men and one young woman, stood up and indicated their purpose to enter upon mission work. All of them are preparing for the mission field.

A circle of King's Daughters in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, is a veritable mercy and help band. During the past year they have expended \$110 for coal, groceries, etc., and \$45 for nurses employed to care for the sick.

The Lutheran Young People of Illinois are sending out Rev. W. M. Beck as a young people's missionary to Africa, under the authority of the Foreign Mission Board of the Church.

The Albany Junior Christian Endeavor Society of Perth, Australia, collected \$100 last year for missions. The sum was made up mostly of pennies.

An Epworth League in Syracuse, N. Y., provides an annual scholarship at Syracuse University at a cost of \$60.

PRACTICAL PARAGRAPHS.

When great lords of Franco hurried to announce to the little boy, Henry the Fifth, that he was now king, the court officer who was sent out into the grounds to summon him had great difficulty in persuading the child to come:—"That's all nonsense, sister; don't let's stop playing."

This story is a good one to laugh over; but you, who have been so often summoned to enter into your kingship, and whose constant answer has been, "Don't let's stop playing," cannot dare to laugh. It is not forced upon the unwilling to accept the heirship of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The newspapers never reported a more pitiful story than the following: A wretched mother dropped dead about four weeks ago at the foot of the son who had been a burden and a sorrow to her. This son, who was thirty years old, instead of helping his mother, spent his wages for whiskey. At last the mother concluded that committing him as an habitual drunkard might lead to his reformation. She was called to the witness stand to swear to the complaint but the strain was too great for her, and she fell dead with the words on her lips: "It's breaking my heart." No orator, living or dead, ever delivered a temperance lecture equal to this in pathos and eloquence.

The Challenge of the Ages.

BY BISHOP COKE.

We are living, we are dwelling
In a grand and awful time!
In an age on ages telling,
To be living is sublime.
Hark! the waking up of nations—
Gog and Magog to the fray,—
Hark! what soundeth? is creation
Groaning for its latter day?
Will you play then, will you dally
With your music and your wine?
Up! it is Jehovah's rally.
God's own arm hath need of thine.
Hark! the onset. Will you fold your
Faith-clad arms in lazy lock?
Up! O! up thou drowsy soldier!
World's are charging to the shock.
World's are charging, heaven beholding,
Thou hast but an hour to fight;
Now, the blazoned cross upholding,
On, right onward for the right;
On, let all the soul within you,
For the truth's sake go abroad.
Strike! let every nerve and sinew
Toll on ages, toll for God.