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W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

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The Epworth League.

I HAVE been asked to give some further information concerning this new social and religious movement, which is attracting so much attention throughout the Methodist Church both in Canada and the United States. To my mind the Epworth League is first of all and most of all a *religious* institution. Its great object is to promote personal piety, Christian culture and Christian service. Unless these objects be kept in the very forefront it cannot reach the deep, wide, permanent results which are the prime cause for its organization. Where it is practicable, where there are a large number of young people in a congregation, it may be well to organize all the departments at once. In many cases, however, it may be best to begin with two or three, or even with one. In all cases the department of Christian work should be foremost. It may begin with a young people's prayer-meeting or class-meeting or the two combined. The motto of the League will indicate, in a word, its purpose: "Look up; Lift up." Look up to God for help and guidance, and then try to lift up others. The divine command to each is, "Son, go work *to-day* in my vineyard." Lo! the fields are white unto the harvest all around. In recruiting for the

Sunday-school, for the services of the church, for the religious meetings of the League, abundant opportunities for usefulness will be found.

To this may be added the Department of Literary Work; especially the study of the Bible, of the early history and biography of Methodism, and of broader reading and culture. The Departments of Social Work and of Entertainments are also of importance, but relatively of less than those just mentioned. They are designed to bring into harmony with the religious spirit of Methodism the social life and amusements of its young people, so that these shall be helpful to their growth in knowledge and piety, instead of being, as they too often are, antagonistic to both. It is to lay the hand of the church gently yet kindly upon the entertainments which are held within its walls, and to restrain them from degenerating into mere frivolous and profitless assemblies.

Much time is wasted by young people in this age of books in light reading, often of a pernicious character. One function of the League is furnish guidance amid the wilderness of reading to a course of instructive, interesting and mentally and spiritually profitable study, such as will commend itself to the judgment of the young people themselves.

It is not the purpose of the league to needlessly multiply organizations—to add a fifth wheel to a coach which has already a complete running gear. It will rather bind these wheels together so that they may run in harmony and with greater efficiency. It is not an antagonist to any existing church organization. Almost any society for religious culture or mental improvement can become a department of the League without in the least affecting its self-management. It merely lends its strength to this movement, and helps to give a unity and solidarity and *esprit de corps* to all the Young People's Associations of the Methodist Church throughout the Dominion—throughout the continent.

The undersigned will be happy to furnish copies of the Constitution of League, Course of Reading, and any further information that may be desired.

W. H. WITHROW,
Office of Epworth League, Toronto.

TRUE goodness is like the glow-worm—it shines most when no eyes except those of heaven are upon it.—Anon.