

# Our Young People

A CHRISTIAN-CITIZENSHIP MEETING, FOR INSTRUCTION AND INSPIRATION.

Topic for July 2: "Our Country for Christ."—Ps. 33: 10-22.

"GOD BLESS OUR NATIVE LAND!"

## For a Good Meeting.

The Christian citizenship committee, which in some societies is wondering what it was ever born for, has an opportunity to "spread" itself in this meeting. Begin by spreading over its walls bunting, flags, and all the patriotic decorations the room will stand.

Judiciously assign, for two-minute remarks, such topics as: "If Christ came to America, what would He find hostile to Him in its Sabbath customs? Its excise laws? Its slums? Its machine politics, etc?"

Ask your pastor for a five minutes' broadside on "Home Missions and Patriotism." Have the information committee ready to make a special report on "Immigration: Its present extent and problems."

Hold a ten minutes' open parliament on, "What more might our public schools do for good citizenship?" "Our Sunday schools?" "Our local press?" "Our Christian Endeavor Society?" "Our Juniors?"

## My Country and I.

By Rev. James L. Hill, D.D.

Marcus Morton was candidate for governor of Massachusetts sixteen times, and then was elected by one vote. A single, plain young man, casting his earliest ballot for chief magistrate in the State where the Pilgrims landed, with his own hand defeated the superlative scholar, the exalted statesman, the brilliant orator, renowned in two worlds, Edward Everett, whose superb encomium of Washington had electrified great audiences one hundred and twenty-nine times. One young man, by his vote, determined who should go to the legislature from Middlesex County. Such facts ought to sober young persons as they face their responsibilities.

Some sentinels must have been sleeping at their posts or the horde of unscrupulous adventurers would not, in some places, have gained such complete possession of certain parts of our political machinery. Who left the gates unguarded and gave them entrance to infest and misuse?

This languid interest in public affairs is the most lamentable thing in sight. We need a revival of seriousness in the

appreciation of the highest secular gift that the world knows. It has cost much.

The "good fellow" commendation is not a sufficient guaranty for a candidate's election. The "almighty dollar" is a heavy weight upon patriotism. The man who is wholly engrossed in the pursuit of wealth, and studies situations only as they bear upon his selfish interests, has no room in his soul for patriotic sentiments.

Patriotism has been a passion with the finest spirits in every age. With every fresh uprising of the people there comes a revival of loyalty, of brave, unselfish devotion to country, which results in an improvement in the character of the men who are chosen to responsible places. There has died recently in Brooklyn, N. Y., an honored citizen, Mr. James T. Stranahan, who commenced life as a farmer's boy, who was a delegate to the convention that nominated Abraham Lincoln, of whom it was nobly said that whatever concerned Brooklyn, concerned himself also.

Most of us become interested in some one department only of work that touches the public good. Intemperance is a monster, but it is not the only evil. Personal feuds and grudges are unchristian, and may be permanently and sweetly healed by a subdued spirit of love and mediation. "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?" Imagining the young people of the world for an audience, and being asked for a practical sentiment this is the one that would be named: Harbor no ill will or malice toward those from whom you differ in political choice and who are seeking to undermine all that you most dearly cherish and strive to promote. Love your enemies. It is difficult to antagonize and not to dislike. Will my present young reader not now adopt this resolution, "I will never think meanly of an opponent in public affairs?" It is a bright lesson in Christian courtesy to see men in town meetings that could be named, and in city governments, engage in the intensest struggles along the lines of their convictions, and yet, like friendly wrestlers, brothers, do it openly, manfully, respectfully, and well.

In these passing days, and at this season when there is so much patriotic feeling in the community, and when so many are at the same time, among the young, resolving to walk "in His steps,"

let us determine to work toward the realization of that ideal which would characterize our public affairs "if Christ should come to" this town. And all the people shall say, Amen.—C. E. World.

## For Daily Reading.

Monday, June 26.—A blessed nation.—Ps. 144: 1-15.

Tuesday, June 27.—A victorious nation.—2 Chron. 20: 1-30.

Wednesday, June 28.—Penitence for sin.—Dan. 9: 3-19.

Thursday, June 29.—Praise for blessings.—Ps. 147: 12-20.

Friday, June 30.—Praise for victories.—Ps. 44: 1-8.

Saturday, July 1.—The nation for Christ.—Luke 14: 15-24.

Sunday, July 2.—Topic. Our country for Christ.—Ps. 33: 10-22. (A Christian citizenship meeting.)

## When Out of the Ranks.

There is a story told of one of the pipers in Wellington's army who at the very beginning of an important engagement received a severe wound in the thigh. Disregarding his pain, however, he refused to be removed from the scene of the conflict, but sat on a bank playing national airs during the remainder of the battle, declaring that though he could not accompany his comrades into the thick of the fight, he would not let them lack music.

Is there not in this incident a hint for some of us who through illness or crowding cares are unable to do our accustomed part in the battle constantly being waged between right and wrong? If incapacitated for active service, we can at least cheer our comrades as they sweep by to the attack. Is there not also a hint for the Christian Endeavorers who are not in the ranks of the voters?

No man can be true to his country who is not true to himself.—Aron.

Whatever makes men good Christians, makes them good citizens.

It pays to follow one's best light, to put God and country, first and ourselves afterwards.—S. C. Armstrong.

If the salt wishes to purify and preserve the meat, it can do it in only one way. It must not hold aloof from the meat. It must touch it and press up against it. We are the salt of the earth, we Christians, and the only way to purify politics is to mingle in politics.

There is a Bible in America which was once baked in a loaf of bread. During one of the persecutions in Bohemia an edict was passed that every Bible in the hands of peasants should be destroyed. Mrs. Schebolt, grandmother of the present owner, placed hers in the centre of a batch of dough, which was ready for the oven, and baked it. The house was carefully searched, but no Bible found. It was taken unharmed from the loaf. It was printed 150 years ago.