

## The Church and the Young.

## The Mutual Relations of the Pastor and Young People's Society.

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We may suggest three things necessary to a right relation between a Young People's Society and the pastor. These are *Helpfulness, Confidence and Loyalty*.

Firstly,—“The ship Zion,” some one has said, “carries no passengers,—only a crew,—and each individual is responsible for some part of the work necessary to the successful voyage.” The pastor, then, as captain, needs the hearty co-operation of every member of the church. Every one should be a worker. This being true of all the members, for even the very feeble and the aged can give their prayers, (and who can estimate the propelling power the church receives from these shut-in helpers?), it is especially true of the members of Young People's Societies, which usually include the strong and enthusiastic, as well as those of most leisure to engage in Church work.

“For Christ and the Church” is our motto; it also is the pastor's; so our aim and his are one, and in fulfilling our pledge we help our pastor both in seeking to deepen our own spiritual life and in trying to win others to the Saviour.

Without flattering my fellow Endeavourers, allow me to say there are some things you can do better than the Pastor, or rather, things which you can do and he cannot. For instance,—there is a young man or lad among you who is full of life and energy, foremost in all athletic sports; he is sure to be popular among his companions, for boys have unbounded respect for muscle. Such a one feels perfectly at ease on the sporting field, but Christian though he be, he is painfully shy in prayer-meeting and requires to muster all his courage to take even the smallest part in the meeting. But his short trembling prayer will probably have more effect on his companions present than even the prayers or preaching of the pastor. Simply because, in the one case, they think, “Oh! it's the preacher's business to pray,” but, in the other, they recognise a new and greater source of power than the physical power they so much admired, and thus might be aroused to seek the power for themselves.

Or, my sister, there comes a new boarder to where you live, a young girl among strangers, and feeling very desolate, may be. The pastor will not know of her arrival as soon as you do, and in taking the stranger with you and introducing her to some church home you do work the pastor cannot do. Then there may be sick ones or poor, whom you may be the first to discover; so be watchful of opportunities and willing to improve them, remembering that earnest and efficient as a pastor may be, he has only one pair of eyes to see new people; one pair of feet to use on errands of mercy; the Christian Endeavour Society has many; so let them be used to help the pastor in the Lord's work.

Secondly,—Treat your pastor with confidence, submitting to his judgment any new plans or methods proposed; remembering the apostolic injunction to obey them that have rule over you. In the Y. P. S. C. E. there is not only the strength and enthusiasm, but also the hot-headedness and immature judgment of youth; and that society shows its wisdom which, in all its endeavour, makes use of the pastor's wider experience and maturer judgment.

Finally, for this paper must be very brief, be loyal to your pastor. He is not the best sailor, nor is that the best crew, in whom stirs no thought of loyalty to the captain. The ideal church is that in which pastor and people are one in sympathy and in aim; that aim being the glory of God. There are many fault finders, and they usually attend to business if no one else does. Christ foretold there would be many to say hard, bitter things against his servants; Paul found it true, and it is true yet. But if there must be such unkind criticism, leave it to others. It is no part of Christian Endeavour work; and if we are honestly striving to help our pastor and confiding to him our working plans, I think we shall be in little danger of disloyalty.

## How to Interest Young People in Missions

BY MISS JESSIE PANTON, OSHAWA.

When our mission bands were formed in Oshawa, we attempted to show those who joined us what we enjoy because this land is a Christian land, and that the secret of happiness in this life is the giving of ourselves to benefit others. For the most part we have followed this plan:—The president puts on the blackboard a written summary of points in connection with the field chosen for that meeting, such as position, climate, productions, people, religion, when mission work was begun there, how it is carried on, names of important workers in that field, and the success of their efforts. Wherever it was in our power to do so, we impressed the lesson by map, picture, or other illustration. Then the members were requested to bring to the next meeting a written account of what they could remember from that talk. We have often felt encouraged by the faithful accounts given, in some cases the papers were found to be a very full sketch. Another field is then chosen for the next meeting and treated in the same manner and so we pass through our several fields, dwelling in the boys' band more particularly on Home Missions. We have found this plan more beneficial than giving them a topic to prepare by themselves, for the reason many of the members have not the facilities in their homes that would give them the required information, and when it comes from the president in a systematized form they receive clearer and better connected ideas than when they attempt arranging for themselves.

It may be objected that this causes the president a good deal of work. True, but, friends, it is delightfully remunerative labour, and the earnest endeavours to retain the information, with the close attention given in receiving it, will be all the reward you will want; but you get another, for in seeking knowledge for others you enrich your own store and verify a Scripture truth, that in watering others you yourself will be refreshed.

Lately we have introduced another plan. Several questions on mission topics of a general or specific nature are written out by the president and distributed amongst the members, requesting them to bring answers to the next meeting.

Last month we received answers to the following objections sometimes made to mission work:—

1. Let the heathen at home be first converted.
2. It is useless to preach to degraded savages; first civilize them.
3. Mission work produces no results.
4. It is no use trying to convert nations that can boast of an ancient faith—older than Christianity.

The answers were highly commendable and showed that earnest effort had been bestowed on the preparation of them. Last year the members of our bands manifested considerable energy in filling a barrel with things suitable for a Christmas tree on one of our Indian reserves in the North-West. The scrap books compiled by the boys displayed much more taste than perhaps you would have accredited to them. Such an effort is very helpful; for we hold that whenever a member does something for the pleasing of another, or for the brightening of their life, the spirit of unselfishness is strengthened, and they begin to realize the truth that it is more blessed to give than receive.

In the matter of raising money, we have never kept that as a conspicuous feature before the band, for this reason: few of them have much to give, but if their minds are stored with the many interesting facts about missions, and their hearts touched with the thought of the world's great need for the Gospel, then, in after years when money is theirs, some of it at least will be found going willingly into this channel. But ever and always we emphasize the importance of direct giving to Christ's cause. In the boys' band we pledge ourselves to a stated sum at the beginning of the year, and then do our utmost to redeem our pledge. One of the avenues along which money comes is a birthday box, into which each member, on the return of their natal day, drops one cent for each year they have lived, as a thanksgiving for benefits received.