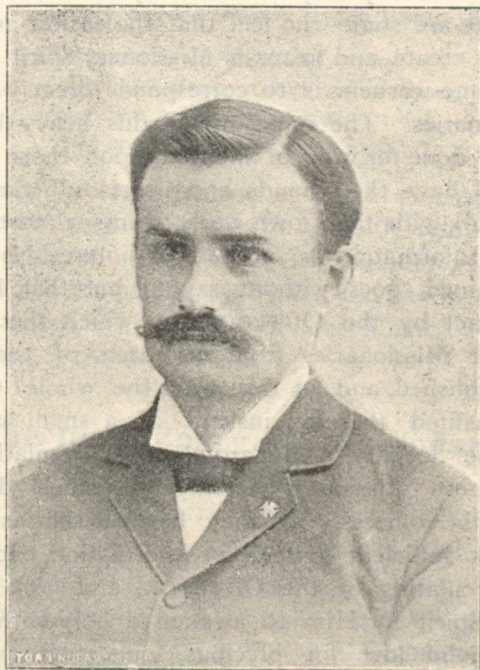


torate in Barrie, must be awarded the honor of organizing the first Epworth League in Canada. Young in appearance, manner and feeling, Mr. Burns has the happy faculty of gaining the confidence of the younger members of his congregation; while the prominence he always gives to the importance of developing a high, spiritual standard of Christian life, makes him their valued and judicious friend.



REV. R. N. BURNS, B.A.,
President of Methodist Young People's Association of Ontario.

Organizations of young people can be, if wisely guided, one of the greatest factors in the world's evangelization. One of the most hopeful signs is that the interests of the young are not all centred around the home work, but they are pushing out to aid those sitting in darkness in the regions beyond. Many letters of enquiry have come to the Mission Rooms regarding work for the Missionary Department of our Epworth Leagues. In another article will be found answers to the questions contained in these letters, which have received due attention; but there are many societies which may find the article referred to helpful.

THE annual meeting of the Missionary Committee of the Methodist Episcopal Church was held in Brooklyn, N.Y., in the early part of November. The total income for the year ending November 1st, 1894, was reported as \$1,137,807, being \$58,800 less than the previous year. The falling off was in legacies, and not in the regular collections. This is the bright lining in the cloud. As Secretary McCable remarked, "The Church ought to be congratulated. The thermometer was the collection only; the decrease had not been there; the love and loyalty of the Church are wonderful." Work is being carried on in Africa, South America, China, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, India, Malaysia, Bulgaria, Italy, Mexico, Japan and Corea. But there is such a large foreign element in the country that has to be

cared for, that a great number of what is termed Domestic Missions are to foreigners residing in the United States.

WITHIN the past month the Emperor of all the Russias has bowed to the inexorable decree, and gone to his eternal reward. Much has been said and written concerning this man of autocratic rule; but it seems almost impossible for those born and nurtured on the American continent to judge fairly of him and his work. Education and surroundings have so much to do with the life and character of a man, that unless one is familiar with these, the judgment is almost sure to be biased and unsound. That Alexander III. was religious and devoted to his Church cannot be questioned. The Greek Church has been considered purer in doctrine and practice than the Church of Rome, yet its fundamental doctrines are sacrifice of the mass, absolution as a prerogative of the priest, invocation and intercession of the Holy Virgin and the saints. The worship of images is not taught, but they are found in very many of the homes of the people, and it is more than likely that paying divine homage to these idols is a part of their worship. Purgatory is condemned; at the same time, the belief is general that there is a temporary place or condition of torment to which the souls of the departed are consigned until the sacrifice of the masses open the way to a happier state. It is not improbable that the religious services that were held almost continuously from the death of the Emperor until his burial eighteen days later, were prompted by the conviction that they were required for the repose of the soul of the departed.

IN reading reports of the rum traffic in Africa, the cry arises in the soul, "How long, O Lord, how long?" That Christian nations should permit such a diabolical business to be carried on seems incredible. How forcibly, and in a few words, the Bible touches the weakness of human nature when it says, "The love of money is the root of all evil." The love of money often gets the brandy bottle into many parts of Africa before the Bible. The love of money has caused the poor black man, after contact with the Europeans for four centuries, to develop a taste for gin, rum, gunpowder and guns. The love of money has brought about such a state of affairs in the Congo State that the battle will be between the Bible and the bottle. The love of money has sent concoctions termed rum, for which no market could be found in England, to be poured down the throats of the helpless blacks.

The African cannot withstand brandy, gin and rum. He never can be a moderate drinker; let him once indulge, and an appetite is formed over which he has no control, and when under its influence is a maddened demon. Joseph Thomson, who has led three expeditions into Eastern Central Africa, writes: "I travelled and suffered, inspired by the idea that I was doing good in opening new lands to commerce and civilization; but all satisfaction was blighted as I felt that what little I had done were better undone,