

THE CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA

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Spring.

Spring! Spring!

Ecstasy's sting!

Birth in the wildwood, and birds on the wing,

Living cries out to you,
Fragrances shout to you,
What is all doubt to you,
—When it is Spring!

Birds! Birds!

Flocks of them—herds!

How can we welcome them merely with words!

Up from the sod to us
Daffodils nod to us.
Message of God to us
Brought by the birds!

Love! Love!

Cloud-ships above!

Trees are a-tremble with messages of Love!

One who will mate with us,
Sharing our fate with us,
Who will be great with us,
Giving us love!

Spring! Spring!

Wonderful thing!

Waves on the shore of it clamber and cling.

Blossoms aburst in it,
Rapture is nursed in it,
Earth is immersed in it.
Exquisite Spring.

—Ethel M. Kelly, in *Leslie's Monthly*.

Appropriateness.—Our own Dr. Potts preached a sermon on board the ship conveying the Sunday School delegates to Jerusalem, which made a deep impression upon all who heard it. Our correspondent, Rev. T. J. Parr, gives an outline of it in another column. This was doubtless a fine discourse, but its beauty was largely in its being so strikingly appropriate to the circumstances of the hour. Preachers and leaders of meetings should aim at bringing a message that will be fresh, and suitable to the occasion when it is delivered.

✱

Fine Soldiers.—Jack London, author of the deservedly popular book, "The Call of the Wild," and war correspondent of the New York *Journal*, writes of the Japanese soldiers in Korea as follows: "No one of the civilian population is afraid of them. The women are safe, the money is safe, the goods are safe. They are paying for whatever they take. I have yet to see one drunken Japanese soldier." Such statements increase our already high admiration for the plucky

little "Jap." Men may say what they please about the "yellow peril," yet the respect and sympathy of all the world's leading nations will be won by a soldiery characterized by such high and noble instincts.

✱

The Example of Christ.—At the opening of the Central Mission Hall, Birmingham, Rev. Marshall Hartley, President of the Wesleyan Conference, advised Methodists to follow more closely the example of their Lord in going out of their way to save the outcasts of society. At the present many of these poor people had no religion and the only needs which they realized were for bread and sympathy.

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Bad City Government.—Says Hon. Andrew D. White: "Without the slightest exaggeration, we may assert that, with very few exceptions, the city governments of the United States are the worst in Christendom—the most expensive, the most inefficient, and the most corrupt." This is no doubt true, but on account of recent happenings in Toronto we do not feel like making any comparisons. There is doubtless much room for improvement in all our cities.

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Jacob Riis and Christian Science.—When Mr. Jacob A. Riis a short time ago officiated as best man at an out-of-town wedding he was suffering from a boil on his right arm. The pain was so severe that Mr. Riis, in the course of a conversation with one of the guests, mentioned the fact. "Dismiss it from your mind entirely, Mr. Riis," urged the guest, who has a leaning toward Christian Science. "Don't think about the boil at all. I'll take the matter in hand at once and you'll hear from me. Remember," with a convincing smile, "you'll hear from me." "And I did hear from him," said Mr. Riis in telling the story. "The very next day I had another boil—two inches from the first one."

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Sympathy with Japan.—In a recent issue of the *Christian Endeavor World*, Rev. J. H. De Forest, D.D., a missionary in Japan, gives the following reasons why the sympathy of the Christian world is with Japan, and against Russia, in the present struggle. 1. Russia is a great despotism, while Japan is a constitutional monarchy with representative government. 2. Then, Russia hates universal education, while Japan makes every effort to educate every boy and girl in the empire. 3. Once more, Russia em-

plows religion to strengthen the chain of tyranny and ignorance, while Japan proclaims religious liberty for all within her domains. 4. We feel that the battle Japan is now fighting is not simply for the independence of Korea and integrity of China, but it is for universal principles of international righteousness and for humanity. If Russia wins in the struggle now going on—which may God forbid,—all these precious liberties would be lost in the East, and the progress of the whole world would be set back accordingly. If victory comes to Japan—and the prayers of all lovers of freedom should be in her behalf,—the light of political and religious liberty will in time flood the whole East, and aid in the salvation of China and perhaps in the final reformation of Russia.

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The Editor's Troubles.—Those who read a paper have no idea how much editing is needed to put its pages into presentable shape. Very little of that which is sent for publication is in exactly proper form for printing. The editor frequently saves the reputations of correspondents by recasting sentences, adding punctuation marks, etc. Unfortunately there are those who resent any change of this kind and insist upon their contributions being "printed exactly as written." The *Pittsburg Christian Advocate* has been having its troubles in this way. An obituary was recently sent in, which the editor took the liberty of re-casting, and correcting. But the writer's indignation was hot, and he requested that his paper be stopped instantly because his manuscript had not been strictly followed. To mollify him, and at the same time illustrate to the subscribers generally the difficulty of pleasing everybody, the editor printed the obituary "just as it was written," except the names, as follows:

"— was Born May 17, 1873, and passed down the valley of Death September 1, 1903. she united with — church under the ministry of —, and remained a firm believer in the Lord Jesus Christ till the angels Beckoned and God opened the gates of heaven and welcomed her Home although the last year of her life was sadly deprived of going to church she never forgot her duties to the Lord. she was a constant reader of the *Advocate*. her death was caused by consumption contracted from Pneumonia. she leaves among her many friends her saddened Parents and a Home that will be forever loneliness with ought her end came Peaceful and with out a murmur by saying I am not afraid to Die and then folded her hands in Prayer and fell asleep in Jesus.

"Sleep on beloved sleep and take thy rest lay down thy head on thy Dear saviour's breast one bright star in heaven never to fade no more one bright star in glory over on the other shore."