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**APOSTOLIC SUCCESSION.**—"And the things which thou hast heard from me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also."—Paul to Timothy.

Nothing, during my recent visit to the Prairie Conferences, gave me greater pleasure than the privilege of meeting with and addressing the probationers for our ministry. That they are a sturdy lot of men may be at once judged from a look at their forms and faces in the photographic groups which are reproduced on pages which follow in this number. And they need all their physical strength at its best, for the toils to which they are called are by no means light. And that these young men are alert, self-reliant, independent and able to both think and speak for themselves anyone who sat quietly listening during the prolonged deliberations of the sessions of, say, the Alberta Conference Probationers' Association, would quickly realize.

And it is well they are such men. The West needs the best, and none are in any way too good for its work. Canada has no place among its religious leaders for weak men, and Methodism cannot afford to take any second place among the churches in providing its share of just the type of man described by Paul to Timothy in the verse quoted in the preceding column. Such a commitment as he calls for constitutes the true apostolic succession, and no other is worthy the name. The successes of the apostolic age were won, under God, by men who were both "able" and "faithful." These are great adjectives. They reiterate the qualifications still in demand everywhere, and in the Canadian West particularly. A minister's ability as a preacher or teacher is no more tested than his faithfulness as a man, and the strain on his fidelity is as heavy as that on his physical endurance or his mental capacity and culture.

Much is being said, these days, about the lure of worldly gain, the enticements of real estate, the attractions and emoluments of other professions and callings, and one might almost imagine that the whole body of our younger preachers was being contaminated thereby. But such is not true. The wonder to me is not that here and there an odd man is won away

by the easy-money cry, but that so many men stand the strain of their office and work, and, resisting the prevailing passion for gold, prove staunch and true to their divine calling. They are the "faithful men" whose sole aim is to impart to others the truth they know, and help build a nation in righteousness.

Their reward shall be greater than can be valued by any monetary standard, and their record shine brighter than mere gold can brighten it.

God bless these "faithful men," and let the Church prize them at their honest worth, and be proud of their steadfastness under stress and strain, amid deprivation and discouragement.

And let the Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues of Canadian Methodism raise up a noble succession to keep the ranks ever full and the outposts well manned. The best of our youth are needed to maintain the glorious traditions of our fathers. Pioneer work is not yet all done. There is yet much land to be possessed, and to claim and cultivate it for God is a glorious enough enterprise to call forth all the truly heroic and intrepid spirit of our bravest and best sons and daughters.

Has your League done its full share in supplying workers for the harvest? Have you ever seriously considered the question: "What can we do?" What Paul began and Timothy continued must go on and on right down the centuries until the day of triumph comes, and on us, here and now, rests the responsibility of doing our utmost to keep the church of our generation in the straight line of apostolic success. We cannot do so unless we provide for the unbroken succession of "able" and "faithful" souls who shall show forth, with Pauline zeal and confidence, the undiminished power and influence of the truth of the Divine Word. To this end let every Sunday School and every Epworth League be more than ever before a recruiting station for the ministry and associated public work for our Lord and Master.

## The Beauties of August

"There is no month in the whole year in which nature wears a more beautiful appearance than in the month of August. Spring has many beauties, and May is a fresh and blooming month, but the charms of this time of year are enhanced by their contrast with the winter season. August has no such advantage. It comes when we remember nothing but clear skies, green fields, and sweet-smelling flowers—when the recollection of snow, and ice, and bleak winds has faded from our minds as completely as they have disappeared from the earth—and yet what a pleasant time it is! Orchards and corn-fields ring with the hum of labor; trees bend beneath the thick clusters of rich fruit which bow their branches to the ground; and the corn, plied in graceful sheaves, or waving in every light breeze that sweeps above it, as if it wooed the sickle, tinges the landscape with a golden hue. A mellow softness appears to hang over the whole earth; the influence of the season seems to extend itself to the very wagon whose slow motion across the well-graded field is perceptible only to the eye, but strikes with no harsh sound upon the ear."—Dickens.

August was anciently called by the Romans sextis, or sixth month from March; but in honor of Augustus Cæsar, second Emperor of Rome, it was changed to August. The Saxons called it "arh-month," or "harn month," because they then filled their barns.—Learing.