

influential? To build a nation is it necessary that all its citizens should be wealthy and conspicuous? Let me tell you another story.

Katie was a nurse girl. She had full charge of the pretty little daughter of a wealthy professional man and whose wife had many social duties. In fact, the father and mother were so busy that they left baby largely to nurse's care.

Katie talked to God every night and before meals, and taught baby to talk to God. The father and mother went for a trip to Europe. On their return they gave a supper to a few friends, and as their little daughter was big enough to take a place at the table she was allowed to sit next to her father, who loved her tenderly and was very proud of her.

Katie was permitted to go out for the evening. Baby was very good until her father began to cut the roast; then she interrupted the conversation by holding up her little hand and saying, "Papa, you never talked to Dod." He did not understand, so went on with his carving. Then the baby became more emphatic and began to cry.

The father asked his wife, "Mother, what is this child saying?"

"Oh, it is only some of Katie's nonsense," was her reply.

"But, what is she saying?"

Then he listened carefully and caught his little daughter's words, "You never talked to God." He was a kind man, who in his early days had been a man of prayer, but prosperity and society had led him to neglect his prayer life.

He replied, with emotion, "You are right my child, and your father will talk to God." He at once asked God's blessing and received it.

When baby's bed time came, and the mother was tucking her in her little cot, she whispered, "Mamma, I want to talk to Dod." The mother kissed her and told her to go to sleep and that she could talk to God in the morning when Katie came back. But baby could not go to sleep. Her sobs touched the heart of her mother, and she knelt in prayer with her child.

What does this mean? Katie was not rich, nor did she appear to occupy a prominent place in the neighborhood, but she, like John, lived a life of prayer. What relation has prayer to nation building? This has never been fully proved. The Old Testament teaches us that when Israel prayed to God the nation prospered; when they forgot God calamities followed. If all men, women and children "talked with God," kept company with God, if they would grow like God; they would become God-like. It is a scientific impossibility for any normal person to pray to God—commune with Him—and at the same time plan to do those things which destroy or even retard the growth of the nation. What is the God of the nations? He is the King of Kings. His plan for each individual is that he should help Him work out the destiny of the nation to which he belongs.

The history of prayer is the story of the growth of mankind Godward. The whole universe is our library; God is our tutor; we are the students; the workmen. Prayer to God quickens and strengthens every power. Through nature and by means of His Word, God directs the building of the nations. He is the great Consulting Engineer; the One from whom we learn. He is continually imparting His thoughts to those who consult Him.

The character and strength of the nation is the sum total of the character of its citizens. When a nation lays hold on God in prayer it will conquer the world by love. God is love. Righteousness exalteth the nation.

How foolish, how dangerous—yes, it

would be criminal—for a gang of workmen to attempt to build a great bridge or building without consulting the plans and drawings. Even the plans are not sufficient, continual consultation with the wisest consulting engineer is necessary. We have now on record the awful catastrophe of the failure of the last attempt to bridge the St. Lawrence.

The history of the nations which have fallen is the story of the failure of mankind, either through ignorance or neglect, to take advantage of the great privilege of walking with God and talking with Him.

When the citizens of any nation set themselves to pray with the same seriousness and strength of purpose that they devote themselves to other forms of effort, that nation will be used of God to lead all the nations of the world.

What Canada Expects of the Epworth League

BY KENNETH J. BEATON.

TWO emigrants from the British Isles, en route for the "land of promise," stood upon the



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deck as their vessel steamed up the St. Lawrence. "Seems to be a very unfinished country, don't you know," said the Englishman. "Aye, mon," replied his Scottish friend, "but think o' the chance o' help! to fenish it." The latter conception is the need of the age, for the home-born among us, and the stranger within our gates, Canada, the rising star in the diadem of the nations, expects of the Epworth League—young Methodism in active service—a great deal more in this new church year than ever before.

The League must supply a new and aggressive evangelism. Pity the Epworth League that holds fifty-two meetings a year without the conversion of a single soul! Pity the church whose pastor and Leaguers so miss the great service, that they have to depend entirely upon evangelistic helpers for their harvesting! The atmosphere of every meeting should be surcharged with the joyous Christian sincerity and sympathy that persuades men to be Christians. A little church League, with 25 members, in one year, by prayer and personal work, led 11 young men and women into the church, and sent two of its mem-

bers into Deaconess work. It transformed the community.

A young girl, a stranger in a great city, sick, disappointed, and discouraged, determined to end her life. On the way something impelled her to turn her steps into a Methodist church, where the League was in session. A young lady, a member of the League, who was going to China as a missionary, told some of the reasons why. The stranger listened and, departing, said to herself, "If that is what life means to her, it must mean something to me." She went to her room, and unburdened her heart to her Heavenly Father, and her consecrated life is a factor still in that society. First, and always, Canada expects Leaguers to believe in themselves, as a great regenerating agency in human lives. Constructive leaders are needed to draw out potentialities, but much greater is the need of an unfolding vision of unselfish service vouchsafed to the rank and file of the membership.

It is the task of the Young People's Society to find and train the missionaries so urgently needed. "Give us men," comes the call from the last great West, where a nation is in the making. "Give us men," comes the call, intensified a

A DAY FOR GREAT THINGS

Never have the young people of our churches had a greater opportunity for service in the Kingdom of God than comes to them to-day. To be on the sunny side of thirty, in this wonderful land of ours, in this opening year of the second decade of the Twentieth Century, is to stand on a vantage ground of opportunity that even the angels might covet. So many things to be done, things that will count so splendidly on the future both of the Church and of the Nation, and so much to help in the doing of them—verily, the young man or woman who is not thrilled to purpose and undertake high things for God and Church and native land, must be sordid and selfish indeed! Truly, this is a day for great things.

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thousandfold, from the non-Christian world, where whole nations are turning their backs upon the altar-shrines of their ancestors, and groping blindly to the throne of the eternal Christ for the "Light of the world." Where shall the answer be found? One Epworth League has answered by sending six of its members to preach the Gospel within three years. Every pastor, president and missionary committee should emphasize the fact, that the question of the hour for the young man choosing a life-work is not primarily—"Does God need me?"—that is almost self-evident—but—"Can I?"

Canada is looking to her young people for a developing knowledge and appreciation of her national literature. She is looking to them for a sane, consistent Christian citizenship that will serve the nation for the nation's sake. Canada needs a race of men and women in God, in their fellow-men and in themselves, who will adopt Grenfell's definition when he says—"This is what life means to me, a place where true joys do not hang on material pegs, and where all the while the fact that God our Father, on his throne lines every cloud with gold."