

## Just a Line or Two

On Tuesday evening, Jan. 29th, the League of Simcoe St. Church, Oshawa, enjoyed an intellectual treat given by Rev. Harold Stacey, who lectured on "Snap Shots of an Ideal Man."

Owing to the marriage and removal of Miss Florence Totten, who was Secretary-Treasurer of the Whitby District Epworth League, Mr. E. L. Chapman of Pickering, has been appointed to this office.

The Junior League of New Liskeard has contributed \$12.55 towards the building of the Hospital in Chentu, China. Some of the children earned the money by planting potatoes and selling them.

The Secretary of the Montreal Conference Epworth League, in speaking of the recent convention at Carleton Place, says: "Rev. S. T. Bartlett was with us and made a splendid impression. He is a very strong, forceful and enthusiastic speaker."

## Look Shelf

All books mentioned here can be procured from the Methodist Book and Publishing House, Toronto.

**The Blessed Ministry of Childhood.** By T. R. Hart. Edited by Harriet. Published by Holman, Anderson & Ferrier, Edinburgh. Price, 30 cents.

This is a beautiful little book in which the little child is used to illustrate Divine truth. As did Christ the author finds in the little ones a living argument for the Kingdom of heaven.

**Four Princes.** By Rev. A. B. Scherer, Ph.D., Published by The Sunday School Times Co., Philadelphia.

This is a very successful attempt to popularize Church History by grouping and presenting it in biographical form. The facts of history are grouped around the lives of Paul, Constantine, Bernard, and Luther. The work is very well done.

**Knights Who Fought the Dragon.** By Edwin Leslie. Published by William Briggs, Toronto. Price, 81.00.

A missionary story the scene of which is laid in China during the Boxer uprising, describing the terrible persecutions of native Christians and missionaries during that trying time. It is well written and intensely interesting.

**The City Sunday-School.** By Frank L. Brown. Published by The Sunday School Times, Price, 50c.

All Sunday-schools are more or less alike but the city school presents problems that are quite distinct from those of the town or country. Mr. Brown's book presents many valuable suggestions in the management of the city Sunday-school, most of them drawn from his own experience in Brooklyn. The book deserves a wide circulation.

**Western Canada: The Granary of the British Empire.**

This is a little book issued by the Canadian Pacific Railway, describing the three great Western Provinces of Canada, and New Ontario, and giving an immense amount of valuable information. For intending settlers in the West it is just the thing that is needed. The advertising department of the C. P. R. at Montreal will send a copy free to any person requesting it.

**The Church and Social Problems.** By Samuel Platts, President of Lawrence University. Published by Jennings & Graham, Cincinnati. Price, 81.50.

A study in applied Christianity, dealing with such questions as "The Church and Socialism," "The social mission of the Church," "The proper attitude of the Church in the social crisis," "How the Church may help solve the problem." The book is written in a scholarly manner and is a valuable contribution on a most important subject.

## Bible Study for Young Men

BY GORDON V. THOMPSON.

Have you felt of late that you have not been giving all the time to bible study that you should? Have you noticed how the business cares have gradually crowded out the zeal for God's word that you used to have? Do you really think that you ought to spend more time in prayer? Have you thought that you have been failing to live up to your greatest possibilities as a laborer in Christ's vineyard?

There are, perhaps, thousands who would answer those questions in the affirmative. There are others who, yet who would be glad to see some of their friends led into paths of more active service. A prescription for a spiritual tonic may be found in the following suggestion:—

The class which the writer has in mind is associated with one of the large Methodist churches of Toronto. It is called the Saturday night Young Men's Bible Class.

The meeting is held each Saturday evening at the home of one of the members and lasts from an hour and a half to two hours. It is held on Saturday because that is a night free from all other church appointments. Holding it on that evening also serves to keep its members out of mischief, while visiting each other's homes in this way makes all better acquainted.

The class has no teacher. All the members are alike pupils. Its object is to encourage individual bible study, and to accomplish this, each member answers the following questions regarding a chapter each morning in the week:—

1. What is the subject?
2. Where did the events mentioned occur?
3. Who are the principal characters?
4. What is the best verse?
5. What is the truth most emphasized?
6. What is taught about Jesus Christ?
7. What is the best lesson?

Thus six chapters are covered during the week, Sunday being left to the study of the Sunday-school lesson. Besides this summary, six members are each appointed to prepare a five-minute exposition on one of the six chapters assigned. The book of John was first studied in this way and at the conclusion, not a member but testified that he knew more of that gospel and its teaching than heretofore.

Twelve seems to be the perfect number. That many young men gathered about a large dining-room table, on a cold winter's night, all intent upon their work—well, it means more than an ideal picture.

And the meeting. While the class has no teacher—other than the Holy Spirit—it has a leader who keeps his eye on the water and allows no long-winded expositions. First comes prayer by the leader or another member whom he may select, then follows the secretary's report of money's received and spent during the week. The expositions of the chapters fall into line next and then come brief, but practical testimonies. A word of prayer all round the table and the meeting is over, but the spirit of it pervades the thoughts and actions of the twelve members during the coming week.

Each member is supposed to report some definite work for Christ on his part. "Have you won a soul?" "Have you led some one into clearer light?" These are questions to be answered Saturday night.

## WONDERFUL RESULTS.

There is another class in Toronto of this nature which has already witnessed a creditable harvest. One of its members is on a circuit preaching the gospel, while another is preparing to enter the ministry. Two others have left the city to attend a prominent missionary training school, where they are studying for foreign mission work. The remaining members are time-saving Christians.

How would you like to be a member of a class like that? Perhaps it would be well to have a Saturday night class in connection with your church. Perhaps your church could support a dozen such classes. How to start one? Well, just ask two or three interested friends to your place next Saturday and get to work. Pray for the Holy Spirit to uphold Jesus Christ and He will draw all men unto Him. It is bound to succeed.

Start it next Saturday, and God will bless your effort.

## Winter Rally

The second or Western Rally of the Methodist Young Men's Association of Toronto was held in the Woodgreen Methodist Tabernacle on Thursday evening, January 31st. The speaker of the evening, Rev. Richard Whiting, spoke on the subject of "Faith." He stated that many addresses had been given upon "Success," but success in fact was synonymous with faith.

Rev. Mr. Whiting was optimistic in his opinion regarding the commercial morality of the country. He believed things were painted worse than they really were. The life followed the look, and if every person began to look upon the evil side, then the point of national decay had been indicated.

Rev. Isaac Gooch, the pastor of the church, referred to the growth and prosperity of the Woodgreen Young Men's Club. He hoped it would continue to wield its good influence and keep the young men interested in church work.

The Victoria Glee Club rendered many bright musical numbers. At the conclusion of the service, the speakers, entertainers and M. Y. M. A. officers were treated to a generous repast, provided by the Woodgreen Club. The President, J. B. Gould, was tendered a hearty vote of thanks.

## Notes

Dr. Allan Shore addressed the Trinity Young Men's Society on Tuesday, Feb. 12th, upon the subject of "How to Keep Healthy." Many practical hints were given by the doctor. Mr. L. A. Kennedy was elected to the presidency of the Society by acclamation upon the resignation of Mr. Leopold McCauley.

Broadway Young Men's Club defeated Central in a debate on Tuesday, Feb. 12th, upon the subject "Resolved that a college education is essential to a man's greatest success." Broadway argued on the negative and were represented by Messrs. Daymon and Quarrington. Messrs. Prettie and Groves debated for Central.

The Young Men's Progressive Society of Queen St. Church, Oshawa, is prospering. Recently an interesting debate was conducted with the Elm St. Club on the subject: "Resolved that the revised spelling of the English language as proposed by the National Spelling Association, if adopted, is destined to do more harm than good." Queen Street took the negative and won the decision of the judges.