

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

CONDUCTED BY S. JOHN DUNCAN-CLARK.

WORLD'S O. E. PRAYER CHAIN, SUBJECT FOR JULY:—"Pray that the fellowship typified by the Christian Endeavor movement, based upon fidelity to Christ and loyalty to one's own Church may prevail, and that it may be greatly promoted by the International Convention at Washington."

Canadian's Invade Washington.

THE DOMINION DELEGATION AT THE FIFTEENTH INTERNATIONAL C.E. CONVENTION.

WASHINGTON, July, 9th.

"Looking towards Washington," is not as a rule a popular phrase with Canadians, yet, nevertheless, during the present week it describes the attitude of thousands of our young people throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion. Here, in this beautiful capital of the United States, a mere handful among 40,000 others, some 350 of us from the Land of the Maple Leaf are representing the Christian Endeavorers of Canada. We are here not to negotiate a reciprocity treaty with our Southern neighbors, but to ratify and emphasize one already made, a reciprocity in Christian fellowship, life and effort. And Canada is made welcome at Washington; ten thousand warm hearts and extended hands vying with each other to give us greeting. We feel that few as we are amid a multitude, our presence is recognized and valued.

Last night twenty-two simultaneous prayer meetings struck the keynote of the Convention, when crowded audiences listened to earnest addresses on "The Deepening of the Spiritual Life."

This morning the Convention proper was opened in two of the immense tents, and a number of the churches of the city. Tent Williston was unavailable having collapsed during the night, in a storm of wind and rain. It was still raining at 9.30 a.m., but this did not seem to dampen the ardor of the Endeavorers in the least, who thronged to the places of meeting in thousands. In tent Endeavor, where I found a seat at the press table, the Rev. Howard B. Grose, of Boston, presided in the happiest manner. Commissioner J. W. Ross, of Washington, delivered an address of welcome, which received an able response from the lips of Prof. W. W. Andrews, of Sackville, N.B. The annual report of Secretary John Willis Baer was of the most intense interest to all the Endeavorers. The following facts gleaned from it concern chiefly Canadians and Presbyterians. All Canada has now 3,292 societies, 1,817 of which are in the Province of Ontario. The Presbyterians 1,020 societies in Canada, falling just fifteen behind our Methodist brethren who still lead the van. The banner for the largest actual increase in societies goes to England for the third time, and that for the largest proportionate increase goes across the ocean to old Scotland. The world membership of the organization is now 2,750,000.

After the Secretary's report, Dr. Francis E. Clark, our beloved President, delivered his annual address from which we quote two extracts that indicate his general tenor. In opening he said:—Fellow Christian Endeavorers:

This is a good year to build platforms. Several have been constructed already. From the great metropolis of the west we can almost hear the resounding blows of hammer and chisel as, in another platform, plank is fitted to plank.

Our Christian Endeavor platform was built for us at the beginning by Providence. Its strength has been revealed by our history.

My task is an easy one, for I only need write in words what I believe God has written in deeds.

If I do not state our platform correctly, I do not ask you to stand upon it.

But if I can read our history aright, these are its chief planks.

First—Our covenant prayer meeting pledge—the magna charta of Christian Endeavor.

Second—Our consecration meeting—guaranteeing the spiritual character of the Society.

Third—Our committees—giving to each active member some specific and definite work "for Christ and the Church."

Fourth—Our interdenominational and international fellowship, based upon our denominational and national loyalty.

Fifth—Our individual independence and self-government, free from control of united society, state or local union, convention or committee; all of which exist for fellowship and inspiration, not for legislation.

Sixth—Our individual subordination as societies to our own churches, of which we claim to be an integral, organic, inseparable part.

Seventh—Our Christian citizenship plank—our country for

Christ, but, as a society, no entangling political alliance. Our missionary plank—Christ for the world.

Eighth—Our ultimate purpose—to deepen the spiritual life and raise the religious standards of young people the world over.

After a review of the history of the movement he concluded:—

Two wings are essential to the bird that would soar toward the sun. Organization is one wing, spirituality is another. A poor, broken-winged eagle is that church or society that fails to use both wings.

Organization without spiritual power is the perfect engine standing upon the track with no fire under the boiler, no steam in the pipes. It is a dumb, dead, impotent thing.

Spirituality without organization is the fire upon the prairie, kindling a blaze, but driving no wheels, turning no shafts, energizing no whirling looms or flying shuttles. This, too, is an impotent, evanescent thing. But spirituality and organization may move the world.

We have the organization practically complete—our covenant pledge, our consecration meeting, our committees, our unions. Our future conquest is a question of spiritual power, and that, O Christian Endeavorers, you must furnish. Spiritual power abides not in the machinery of itself, but it may be had for the asking. Listen to the promise, Christian Endeavorer: "Ask and ye shall receive; seek and ye shall find." Spiritual power is as free as the sunlight, as mighty as the tides. It is as abundant as electricity, but, like electricity, it must be generated. It is as omnipotent as God, but it must be applied.

The Christian Endeavor history of this past year is the story of this power. Its dominant note has been "Evangelism." "Saved to serve" has been its motto. The "new Endeavor" may be summarized as the evangelistic Endeavor, and wise evangelism is spiritual power applied.

WATCHWORD FOR THE COMING YEAR.

O Endeavorers, this is your supreme mission. Be the conductors of this spiritual electricity. Be the willing wires, the live wires, along which may run the power of God to every part of our organization. This is the one, the only, secret of true success—"Not by might, not by power," nor by organization nor by perfection of machinery, not by committees, not by methods, "but by My Spirit, saith the Lord," working through committees and methods and organization.

Oh, that by some word of burning eloquence I might lay this thought on the heart of every Endeavorer throughout the world! This word is not mine to speak. It is not any man's to utter. Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Comforter, speak Thou the word that makes our organization live.

But I can, I do, urge you to make this the Christian Endeavor watchword of the coming year. Each year of the fifteen years has been noted for some advance step. Each convention has been signalized by some great thought. "Citizenship," "Missions," "Fellowship," have been our watchwords at conventions past, and they are our watchwords still; for a step once gained we will not lose. And here is the greatest word, and best of all: Spiritual power. "Washington '96"—may it live in history as the convention of God's power? 1896-7, the year of God's energizing might in Christian Endeavor!

Then, as steel and copper, hitherto unweldable metals, are welded together by the mighty, subtle power of electricity in a union so complete that no human eye can find the seam, so, by the fusing might of God's spirit in Christian Endeavor, will be welded together fidelity that is true and fellowship that is large-hearted, responsibility that makes strong and loyalty that makes humble and gentle, patriotism and humanity, organization and spiritual power, now and forever, one and inseparable. And "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

This afternoon I went to our own denominational rally in Fourth Presbyterian Church. The Rev. A. L. Geggie, Truro, N.S., presided, and after opening exercises called upon Mr. S. John Duncan-Clark to address the meeting. The President of the Toronto Union spoke on the "Educational Aspect of Christian Endeavor," and urged the need of cultivating an intelligent knowledge of our own Church history, polity, doctrines and missions among our young people. The Rev. Robert Laird, of Campbellford, then addressed the meeting on how the Christian Endeavorer may become strong for service. His words were helpful and inspiring. The Rev. Jno. Niel, of Toronto, then moved a resolution expressing the gratification of the Canadian Presbyterian Endeavorers assembled in Washington, at the approval of the General Assembly so cordially given to the movement during their recent session in Toronto; and promising increased earnestness and effort on behalf of the Church during the coming year. This resolution was unanimously carried.

To-night I hope to attend one of the great tent gatherings.