

THE CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA

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WILLIAM BRIGGS, Publisher.

Vol. VIII

TORONTO, MARCH, 1906

No. 3

Still a Living Book.—The Bible is still a living and powerful book. Its circulation is an index of the growth of the kingdom of Christ. About 10,000,000 volumes were circulated during 1905. The intelligent acceptance of the Bible and its teachings is changing lives and character in all parts of the world.

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Seasons of Quiet.—JESUS himself could not keep the divine life in him up to its healthy tone save by getting out of the whirl in which daily life held him and, getting by himself, finding, making quiet—quiet that had not merely rest in it—but God. And if such as he needed such reasons, how much more we? How much we miss, or how much we fail, through want of them!

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The Social Element.—The social element in religion can not be ignored. Christ fully recognized it and often he was in the house of his friends entering into the spirit of their hospitality and fellowship. Paul did the same. His epistles always close with the tenderest mention of the names of those with whom he had found congenial and loving association. There is no social relationship weaker than that that grow out of religious communion and brotherly love.

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The Invalid Wards.—Rev. J. B. Silcox, of Toronto, thinks there are too many Christians in the invalid wards of the church. He is of the opinion that the working force of the average church is not twenty per cent. of the membership, and that "a consecration of saints must precede the salvation of sinners." Mr. Silcox is right. We need more Christian workers. The application of Epworth League methods of work to the whole congregation might in some places result in good, it being understood that every member should act on some committee and engage in some form of religious activity.

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Two Ways of Success.—President Roosevelt once answered in this wise a man who had expressed admiration for his successful career:

"It has always seemed to me that in life there are two ways of achieving success, or, for that matter, of achieving what is commonly called greatness. One is to do that which can only be done by the man of exceptional and extraordinary abilities. Of course, this means that only one man can do it, and it is a very rare kind of success or of greatness. The other is to do that which many men could

do, but which, as a matter of fact, none of them actually does. This is the ordinary kind of greatness. Nobody but one of the world's rare geniuses could have written the Gettysburg speech, or the second inaugural, or met as Lincoln met the awful crises of the Civil War. But most of us can do the ordinary things which, however, most of us do not do. Any hardy, healthy man, fond of outdoor life, but not in the least an athlete, could lead the life I have led if he chose—and by 'choosing' I of course mean choosing to exercise the requisite industry, judgment and foresight, none of a very marked type."

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The Gospel in the Shops.—Under the direction of Rev. Charles Stelzle of the department of church and labor of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Church has been conducting a series of shop meetings in the factories of Chicago. One hundred and twelve meetings were held at about sixty different centers. On one day seventeen meetings were conducted. Each speaker was accompanied by a cornetist, usually a soloist, and one or two general assistants who distributed the souvenir programs and portions of Scripture which were eagerly taken by both men and women. Ten thousand "Gospels of John" in English were used, besides several thousand Gospels and Testaments printed in the Polish, Bohemian, and German languages. The souvenir programs contained Scripture enough to direct the honest seeker to Jesus Christ. About 33,000 programs were distributed, and in many cases there were not half enough to supply the crowd. The average attendance at each meeting was about two hundred and fifty. All types of working people were reached. It is impossible to tell what effect was produced, but the interest displayed justified the effort. Methodism should be doing the same kind of evangelistic work.

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A Blessed Season.—That the days of enthusiastic Epworth League Conventions are not over, was proved by the splendid success of the Bay of Quinte Conference League Convention, recently held in Bowmanville. Concerning the gathering, the Bowmanville *Statesman* says: "A feeling of regret on the part of citizens was general, we believe, in this town last week, when the time came for the delegates to the Epworth League Convention to go away. The delegates themselves seemed also to share the same spirit. It was to all a blessed season of sociability, rejoicing and Christian en-

deavor. Conventions are regarded often with disfavor, but not so with this one. As citizens we were very glad it came to Bowmanville. It gave the local Leaguers a decided spiritual uplift, and all the people who crowded the spacious auditorium, galleries, aisles, etc., of the Methodist church received great good. The addresses were all excellent and appropriate, and the only complaint was that too many good addresses were given for the three days' session. Four days could have been profitably occupied by the programme provided. Great praise is due the Executive for the business-like methods, the thoroughness and promptness with which the programme was carried through."

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An Inspiring Motto.—One of the mottoes conspicuously displayed at the Bay of Quinte Conference Convention was this: "A Revival in every League, and every League in a Revival." Commenting on this, the new President of the Convention, Rev. S. F. Dixon, says: "Why not a revival in every League, and the League in every revival? That means vital touch with God and out-reaching effort for man; letting the light of intelligent piety shine in active Christian work; intensity and extensivity. And no League can be true to itself if it turns its lamp into a dark lantern, and says, 'Let the outer world lie in darkness.' But a revival is not brought by pressing a button to start the machinery, nor by worshipping at the shrine of ecstasy, forgetting the unsaved. Passive holiness will not save the world. Negative virtues lead to 'holy nothings.' Scriptural holiness is *wholeness*. It impels to action, and action in turn brings symmetry of character. Revivals are manifold in form. The essential is life. Forms grow out of the conditions and needs. A revival in some Leagues would mean prayer and Bible study first; in others the immediate personal and corporate evangelistic effort to save the lost. Prayer, Bible study and use of means of grace are not mere arbitrary requirements for a revival; they are essentials for attainment of power, which we get by impartation of Christ's life and should use 'to bring our young associates to Christ.'"

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Home Manners.—Dr. Arnold, the famous master of Rugby, used to say: "It is well to review one's home manners and discover whether they are what they should be. I can tell the boy who comes from a well-mannered home at once. How is it that people will not remember that home manners cannot be laid aside when they go out?"