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## Sunday School Banner.

W. H. WITHROW, D.D., EDITOR.

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### Moral Enthusiasm.

It is the bounden duty of all young Methodists, and especially of the Epworth League and young people's associations, to maintain a high degree of that moral enthusiasm out of which Methodism sprang at the beginning, to which it owes its vital energy, and which is a pledge and condition of its continual growth and progress. The great Dr. Chalmers well characterized Methodism as "Christianity in earnest. . . All at it and always at it." It will be a sad day for Methodism and for true religion when we are satisfied with the record of the past, either in our own personal experience or in that of our fathers. Then, indeed, would our religion become an empty form; then would it become as sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal. We must seek from on high the vitalization of these forms by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

One of the more hopeful aspects of religion in all the churches is that youthful hearts and minds are throwing themselves with enthusiasm into religious work. There is such a thing as a selfish kind of religion that seeks personal benefit only in prayer and consecration meetings—having a good time spiritually without special regard for the unconverted. The Epworth League and the Christian Endeavour Societies are growing beyond this. They are devoting themselves with intense earnestness and enthusiasm to aggressive Christian work—home missionary work, going out into the highways and hedges and in the spirit of the Master seeking to save that which was lost.

We covet for our young people this higher type of religion, that is not satisfied with personal salvation, but seeks to bring others also to the knowledge of the like precious faith. Thereby shall they grow in grace much more than if they only sought their own salvation.

A traveller, overtaken in a storm, was about to succumb to the cold when his companion sank down exhausted in the snow. With desperate efforts he sought to arouse him from the coming torpor of death by freezing. He chafed and rubbed his limbs till presently he felt the glow of warmth pervade his own half-torpid frame, and thus he not only saved his companion, but possibly also saved his own life too. So amid the torpifying and benumbing influences of worldliness and religious coldness, the best way to keep our souls aglow with religious life and fervour is to seek to help and save others.

### How Shall We Keep Our Older Boys?

The question how we shall keep our older boys is one that has been discussed so often, and from so many points of view, that it may seem almost presumptuous to offer any further suggestions; but, after many years' experience, there are one or two minor points that I should like to touch upon. As little things make up life, so does the observance of detail go a long way toward gathering and keeping together a class of boys. I may say that I have been teaching boys for upward of ten years.

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