

necessary something are not likely to either get or do much. But those who see in the league a means of getting, that they may give out again in all the fruits of holy character and useful ministry, will both profit and be profitable. And the league that doesn't give will soon die. If you would grow, get; but not to hold or hoard. Give, and you shall have abundance.

Do the Next Thing

We once heard a man, in an outburst of enthusiasm, say in public testimony, "I do wish the dear Lord would show me something that I could do for Him." And, almost before we knew it, we had said to him, "Do the next thing, brother; *do the next thing!*" The whole world about us is full of opportunity; and, instead of waiting for some great thing, we should cheerfully perform the first task that comes to hand.

A young Christian who does not willingly do things for God at home is not called to go abroad. God does not want us to wait for occasions to arise miles away before we do His work; but He does desire us to do the very next thing that is to our hand here and now. Do not wait. Act. And such action will be the best possible preparation for larger activities in the days to come. People who long and sigh for something to do are very short-sighted if they do not find abundant opportunity immediately confronting them.

Life vs. Things!

"A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Nothing deters men from seeking possession of things. The cold of the Klondike, the heat of the tropics, dangers on land, perils on the ocean, the loneliness of deserts, the heights of mountains, the dangers of war, the diseases of the slums, all conceivable personal discomfort and exposure are dared and endured if "things" may but be obtained. Our Lord clearly warns of the danger of selfseeking that springs from covetousness. There is no wrong in the honest possession of things, but the danger is that the things will ere long possess us. Such things cannot either make or satisfy the man. In every way he is more than they represent. And yet the world's question is invariably, "What is he worth?" The answer as Christ would have it is not determined by the man's bank account or his commercial rating, but by his thoughts, his affections, his purposes; by what he is rather than by what he has. What is to be our standard of values in considering life? Internal character, not external possessions. In what does true life consist then? In being a Christian, in perfecting our Christian character and experience, in helping others to be Christians, in perfecting the work of God in them. Thus, whether poor or rich in "things," we may be millionaires in character and incalculably rich towards God in good works.

Good Manners

"We are surely not heathens." This was a remark made by Gipsy Smith at one of his great night meetings in Massey Hall. The occasion of the comment was the manifest curiosity of some in the vast audience to see who were rising to their feet in response to the evangelist's stirring appeal to decide for Christ. Most of the throng had heads bowed reverently, but some seemed indifferent to his request for a devotional attitude, and sat upright in their chairs. The cutting comment of the preacher had its intended effect.

The manners of young people in attendance at public meetings are not always exemplary. Too many act not only irreverently towards God, but dishonestly towards their neighbors. How can one listen attentively to a speaker if in the adjoining seat there are thoughtless and inattentive persons who, by whispering, giggling, and manifest preoccupation, are miles away in thought and intention from the place of meeting?

It is a sign of ill-breeding when in even an ordinary Epworth League meeting young people fail to conduct them-

selves becomingly. It is culpable selfishness when a few giddy youths prevent others from enjoying the service. It may be sheer thoughtlessness, but it is none the less censurable on that account. No league president or leader should countenance ill-behavior on the part of any, and when such reprehensible conduct becomes chronic, the sooner severe measures are employed to correct the evil the better for all concerned.

The Epworth League cannot afford to permit a spirit of irreverence. If it does so, it must surely fail in one of the vital purposes of its existence—the cultivation of a habit of both mind and body that evinces a disposition within, to worship God and reverence His house.

These remarks are written because of certain observations recently made in regard to a large representative league rally, as well as from the comment of Gipsy Smith quoted at the beginning.

Is Reverence Declining?

Is the spirit of reverence on the decline? Many think it is, and perhaps not without good reason. Especially do our youth need to be warned against the development of irreverence and the manifestation of the evil in both speech and demeanor. When a child begins to think lightly of things that should be held in reverent esteem, it is a short step to flippant speech regarding them. To teach the young to regard most deeply the aged, to hold in veneration the house of prayer, to esteem highly the sanctuary services, to respect the ministerial office, to observe the sacredness of the Sabbath, to cherish in reverent affection whatever pertains to religious life or worship, is certainly incumbent on all their teachers. Oral instruction on these matters is good, but personal example is better. Parents who criticize the minister before their children can hardly expect them to have the highest opinion of him or his preaching. And this is a not uncommon fault. Parents who permit their children to go to church or remain away as whim or caprice may dictate, can hardly hope to cultivate a habit of reverent attendance or attention in the House of God. Parents who allow their children to sit anywhere they please when they do go to church, need not be surprised if the boys or girls grow up with very loose notions regarding the claims of public worship. And so we may go on through the list. We are persuaded that parental example is the most contagious influence in the life of the child, and parents who are careless in either speech or action will surely cultivate, though it may be unintentionally, a harmful spirit in their children. Particular care should be exercised in order to give the young a wholesome regard for all sacred things, else with the growth of years will come a growth in irreverence that will be an ineradicable blot on the character of the adult. Parents, speak softly, act guardedly, lest in the face of the most holy things your young people grow indifferent to their supreme claims.

Christ as a Missionary

We think it was Amos R. Wells who said:

"Christ was a home missionary in the house of Lazarus."

"Christ was a foreign missionary when the Greeks came to Him."

"Christ was a city missionary when He taught in Samaria."

"Christ was a Sunday School missionary when He opened up the Scriptures and set men to studying the Word of God."

"Christ was a children's missionary when He took them in His arms and blessed them."

"Christ was a missionary to the poor when He opened the eyes of the blind beggar."

"Christ was a missionary to the rich when He opened the spiritual eyes of Zaccheus."

"Even on the cross Christ was a missionary to the robber, and His last command was the missionary commission."

The Epworth Leaguer who really takes Christ as his example cannot fail to be a missionary unless he proves untrue to his pledge.