

THERE is tremendous tryanny in bad habits it is true, but perhaps there may be equal power in good habits. Goodness is probably as contagious as badness. At any rate the best way to offset the influence of evil is by the promotion of virtue.

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Do not allow the work of your League to be done entirely by half a dozen capable members. Why? In a short time they may be called away, and the society is liable to go to pieces unless others are prepared to take up the responsibility. The younger members should always be in course of training for the time when the work will rest upon their shoulders.

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Of course there are discouragements in carrying on an Epworth League. Sometimes the very best workers move away, others become lukewarm, and very often it happens that the work has to be done by a faithful few. Under these circumstances there is great need for determination and perseverance. Do not give up. If you cannot do what you would like, do what you can.

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THERE is scarcely any greater need in Canada to-day than good, clean, comfortable home-like temperance hotels. There is no reason in the world why the sale of whiskey should be connected with a house of public entertainment, but everything against it. It is a grievance, too, that people who dislike tobacco should be forced to breathe air that is fairly blue with tobacco smoke every time they enter an hotel corridor.

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THE difference between an ordinary Bible class and an organized adult class is that in one the unit of influence is the teacher, while in the other it is the members of the class themselves. The teacher simply teaches and inspires, while the members look after the sick, drum up absentees, and scout for new scholars. These methods are specially suited to classes of young men. It is a fine thing to give the boys something definite to do.

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IN a railway car, not long ago, we heard a little boy not more than five years old, use a profane expression, which indicated the kind of conversation he was accustomed to hear at home. The amount of profanity that is heard on the streets, even among boys, is simply appalling, and calls for some effort to suppress it. A man was recently arrested and fined for swearing in a public place. This advertized the fact that profanity is an offence that is punishable.

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GIPSY SMITH is direct in his preaching. He loses no time or energy on mere rhetoric. One day during his recent Chicago meetings he said in that piercing, pathetic voice of his, "O you men and women, fathers and mothers, you have led your children to the theatre, you have led them to the dance, you have led them to the card table. But, forgive me if I ask you, have you ever led them to the Throne?" This is the kind of preaching that is needed in many places.

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FLIPPANT and very unfair criticisms of the Epworth League as a whole are often made because of some weakness that is noticed in the local society. An individual League occasionally develops tendencies to frivolity, add straightway some self-appointed critic gravely announces that the Epworth League is degenerating, becoming a courting society, etc. Nothing could be more out of harmony with the facts. Where there is one League that becomes a little giddy, there are fifty that are serious, earnest and aggressive in Christian work.

MUCH is said of the hardships and privations of the early Methodist preachers, and certainly they were a noble body of men, but the days of self-sacrifice in the Church are not altogether past. In a missionary sermon, recently delivered in St. Catharines, Rev. Dr. Hazelwood told of a Methodist preacher in a new Canadian settlement who received \$300 a year to keep himself and family, and lived in a shack, while in the same neighborhood, an under cook, in a lumber camp got \$60 a month and board.

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A GENTLEMAN, who declined to give his name, called at this office, recently, and handed the General Secretary the sum of \$109 as a private contribution to the new enterprise recently inaugurated by our General Board, of placing two associate secretaries in the field with the special purpose of organizing new Sunday Schools and Leagues, and making existing ones more efficient. Surely there are others who are interested in this forward movement, and who could afford to contribute something toward it. We would be glad to hear from them.

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THERE are some young people's societies whose members never do anything but listen. Every week some good speaker is asked to come in and address them, and they give the best of attention to what he has to say. But this everlasting listening is an incurably bad basis for an organization like the Epworth League, which defeats the very object of its existence. Let the members speak, pray, and work for themselves. They may not do as well as the practised speaker, but they are at least developing their own powers which is what the League was intended for.

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Good old Dr. Cuyler strikes the nail on the head when he says: "The best time to become a Christian is in early life, and the chief efforts of pastors, parents, and teachers should be directed to the young. A church that allows its young people to be drawn into the rapids of sinful temptation and to drift down the accelerating current of worldliness, can expect nothing else than that the majority of them should go down over the cataract of perdition." There is an improvement in recent years in the attention that is paid to the religious education of the young, but there is still much room for great advance.

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THAT the Sunday School is a live organization is shown by the fact that it is continually developing new forms of activity, and constantly extending its field of usefulness. One of the most recent features is the special effort that is being made to build up adult Bible classes. The International Sunday School Association has appointed Mr. Pearce to give special attention to this department, and certainly he will render excellent service in promoting this movement. His addresses, during a recent visit to Toronto, on this subject, were wonderfully interesting and inspiring. We shall have more to say on this subject later.

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A MAN has made a great discovery when he has discovered himself. Like Columbus he has sighted a new world, with wonderful resources and possibilities. There is as much danger of people depreciating themselves as there is that they will over-estimate themselves. The sad fact faces us that quite a number of our League members are really doing nothing to make the society a power in the Church. We would resent it if we were called "nobodies," and yet we practically place ourselves in this class. It is as much of a sin to be a poltroon as it is to be an egotist. The man who buries his talent is as guilty as the man who misuses it.