

watch; all but Robbie, and talked the rest of the way of nothing but the Spaniards, Cubans and Rough Riders. Robbie was glad when he reached the lane that led up to his home. He began to feel very guilty. It was bad enough to want to keep anybody's watch when it didn't belong to him—but a dead soldier's when his father wanted it! Robbie was disgusted with himself. Yet again, how did he know it was the watch that Mr. Holdcraft owned? So he again locked it in his trunk, but became so miserable in consequence, that his mother thought he was sick, and suggested a dose of castor oil.

One day, as he was passing through the sitting room with a downcast look, his mother said to him.

"If you have done anything wrong, make it right, my boy, if you want to be happy."

"Who said I did anything wrong?" he asked roughly, to hide the tears that were struggling to come up in his eyes; but his mother's words followed him all the rest of the day, and when he came to lie down at night, he said to himself, "Mother is right. If I ever want to be happy again, I've got to find out about that watch; but I've had it so long now, I am ashamed."

A few days later as Robbie was on his way to school, he met old Mr. Holdcraft coming down the avenue. Quick as a flash he darted back home, secured the watch and was in time to meet Mr. Holdcraft before he reached the house.

"Please, sir, is this yours?" he asked, holding up the watch.

"God bless you, my boy! My Harry's watch! Where did you get it?"

Then poor Robbie explained everything with tearful eyes and trembling fingers.

The old gentleman, pitying the boy's distress, said,

"Well, never mind, my fine little man. It was a great temptation, and if some other boy had found it I might never have seen it again," and he insisted on his taking a silver dollar.

"I don't deserve it," said Robbie. "I ought rather give you a dollar for making you wait for your property so long."

Robbie took the dollar, however, and when his schoolmates ask where is his watch, he takes a silver dollar from his vest pocket, and exhibits it with a smile, without further explanation, but to himself he often says:

"I would rather have this than that gold watch, because I came by it honestly. Don't catch me keeping other people's property again!"

Robert Norris is now his own happy self again.—Christian Work.

A Punctual Man.

A certain Mr. Scott, of Exeter, whose business required him to travel constantly, was one of the most famous characters for punctuality in the kingdom. By his methodical habits, combined with unwearied industry, he accumulated a large fortune. For a great many years the landlord of every inn in Cornwall or Devon that he visited knew the exact day and hour he would arrive. A short time before he died, at the advanced age of eighty, a gentleman who was making a journey through Cornwall put up at a small inn at Port Isaac for his dinner. He looked over the bill of fare, and found nothing to his liking. He had, however, seen a fine duck roasting on the fire. "I'll have that," said he. "You cannot, sir," replied the landlord; "it is for Mr. Scott, of Exeter." "I know Mr. Scott very well," replied the traveller. "He is not in your house." "Very sorry," said the landlord, "but six months ago, when he was last here, he ordered the duck to be ready for him this day, exactly at two o'clock." And, to the amazement of the traveller, who chanced to look from the window, the old gentleman was at that moment entering the inn yard, about five minutes before the appointed time.—Harper's Round Table.

Woman's Greatest Charm.

The New York Press has been collecting opinions, as to what constitutes "woman's greatest charm." Here are a few of the opinions:

Grace of expression is pre eminently woman's greatest charm.

I think woman's greatest charm is neatness.

It is my unalterable conviction that a kindly, gracious manner is a charm greater than any beauty of face or form, sparkling wit or various accomplishments.

A woman's greatest charm lies in her power to love.

Take my word for it, girls, and be natural. Therein lies your greatest charm, and in the long run you will come out ahead.

I should say that it was womanliness, as every man loves a womanly woman.

There is no single quality in human life that comes nearer the very heart of manliness than the unbending sense of duty that cannot be bribed or cajoled or seduced. If the home, the school, and the church do not reinforce that, they fail in their mission.—Watchman.

EDITOR,

Kindly address all communications for this department to Rev. J. B. Morgan, Aylesford, N. S. To insure publication, matter must be in the editor's hands on the Wednesday preceding the date of the issue for which it is intended.

Prayer Meeting Topic—February 19.

B. Y. P. U. Topic.—Conquest Meeting: Leaders and Triumphs in India and Assam.
Alternate Topic: Palm tree Christians, Psalm 92: 1-15.

Daily Bible Readings.

Monday, February 27.—Ezekiel 1. The God of Zion in Symbol. Compare Isa. 6: 1-4.
Tuesday, February 28.—Ezekiel 2. God's command to Ezekiel (vs. 1, 2). Compare Jer. 1: 7, 8.
Wednesday, March 1.—Ezekiel 3. The sweet roll from Zion (vs. 1-3). Compare Ps. 19: 10.
Thursday, March 2.—Ezekiel 4. The seat of Zion, to suffer (vs. 1). Compare Isa. 3: 1.
Friday, March 3.—Ezekiel 5. Slight hope for Jerusalem (vs. 1-7). Compare Duett. 32: 22-24.
Saturday, March 4.—Ezekiel 6. Purpose of this destruction (vs. 10). Compare Ezek. 22: 16.

Prayer Meeting Topic—February 26th.

Palm tree Christians, Psalm 92.

This Psalm celebrates in joyful strain God's righteous government of the world. This is manifest in the overthrow of the wicked and the final triumph of the righteous. Verses 12-14 contain the lesson from which our topic is drawn. This lesson teaches that,

1. The palm tree Christian is upright. Strongly rooted in the soil the palm tree lifts its rugged trunk straight toward the heavens, having its top alone crowned with a knop of beautiful foliage. The Christian, planted in the house of the Lord, carefully attendant to the privileges of God's house, seeking earnestly to know God's will, that he may do it, will grow upward like the palm tree. With a holy ambition will they aspire heavenward knowing that his citizenship is in heaven. If we are firmly rooted in the "house of the Lord" we shall grow toward the Lord, our lives becoming more upright with each additional truth lived.

2. The palm tree Christian is strong. "He shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon." The date-palm and cedar are selected as the loveliest images of undecaying vigor and perpetuity. Among the prophets and poets they are the favorite emblem for whatever is grand and magnificent. Let us learn from them that to uprightness must be added strength in Christian character. The sapling may be upright but it is not strong. It becomes strong only as its roots feed upon the rich soil and as it endures summer's heats and winter's blasts. You become strong only as your life is nourished by that of Christ and as you unswerving do his will. If you choose such a course you must battle with many opponents and climb many hills of difficulty. But they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.

3. The palm tree Christian is beautiful. "They shall be full of sap and green." The palm tree is an evergreen. Throughout the year, in the winter's cold as in the summer's heat, the palm continues green. This makes it a thing of beauty. So, too, uprightness and strength are not enough for a fully rounded Christian life. Planted in the house of the Lord, enriched by the grace of Christ, the Christian life becomes beautiful. To cedar-like strength will be added the sweet qualities of mercy. That holy life, within which is the source of all true life, will manifest itself in all we have to do until the very beauty of the Lord our God shall rest upon us.

4. The palm tree Christian will be fruitful. "They shall bear fruit in old age." The date-palm is one of the most fruitful of trees. In its maturity it produces from three hundred to six hundred pounds of fruit. Upright and strength crowned with beautiful foliage but no fruit would not fulfil the mission of the palm tree. There must be fruit. If the Christian life is to fulfil its mission it must be fruitful. It must bring blessing into other lives. It must yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness. It is the fruit bearing life that is really beautiful. We have seen the fruit tree in June snowy with blossoms and it was beautiful. But it was merely the beauty of promise. We have seen that tree in October laden to the ground with luscious fruit. Then it was beautiful, not with promise but with fulfillment. From soil and air and sunlight it had taken during those months the nourishment necessary to bring the fruit to perfection. From God's Word, God's house and God's presence take spiritual nourishment and the glorious promise of your life will mature into golden fruitage ready for the Master's table when his hand shall reach down to pluck it.

R. OSGOOD MORSE.

Among the Societies.

TORRERO B. Y. P. U.

We are pleased to report deep interest in our work. The attendance is good and the devotional service weekly is much appreciated. We have also a large S. L. C. class ably led by Stephen Rodgers, B. A.
February 9.

W. C. Parker, Sec'y.

HANTSFOOT B. Y. P. U.

Our Society has been silent for sometime; but that is no sign we are dead. We have good meetings every Monday night. We have 87 members, including

The Young People

active, associate and honorary. Quite a number of our members are away, but we hear from them from time to time. Sometimes the news is quite cheering. We have no conversions to report this last six months, but mean to keep on praying. Our last business meeting was held in October, when the officers were changed, and we are resolved to do better work this coming half year.
February 6.

A. COALFLEET, Sec'y.

SEAL HARBOR, GUYSBORO CO., N. S.

Although our B. Y. P. U. has not been heard from for some time we are glad to say we are yet in the land of the living. Our prayer meetings are held on Saturday evenings, which are largely attended, spiritual and interesting, and we are led to feel that God is blessing our Union. On January 2 our annual business meeting was held, when the officers for the coming year were elected. We are looking for great blessings this year and would ask the sister societies to remember us at a throne of grace that God's richest blessing may rest upon us down here by the sea.
BERTHA LANGLEY, Cor. Sec'y.

NORTH BROOKFIELD, N. S.

Our B. Y. P. U. is not often reporting through your columns and so we thought it wise to send a short report. We have at present 49 active members and 16 associate. We have just elected the officers for the ensuing half year as follows: Pres., A. W. Hendry; Vice-Pres., Nellie M. Barrs; Sec'y, Ella M. Mager; Treas., Raymond T. Morton. Our Union meetings are held every Sunday night in the month and are well attended. We have a Sacred Literature class with a membership of twenty-two, which meets every Friday night. Our pastor, Rev. G. C. Crabbe, is the leader. These meetings are especially interesting, and through their instrumentality we hope to obtain clearer views of our Creator and his character and purposes. Our Union is moving steadily forward and by God's grace we are striving to be "true-hearted, whole-hearted" Christians, and "meet for the Master's use."

ELLA M. MAGER, Sec'y.

HALIFAX, N. S.

Quarterly meeting of District B. Y. P. Union was held in the North Baptist church Friday evening, January 27. A large number of members were present from our various Unions. After opening exercises conducted by District President W. A. Freeman, a devotional meeting was led by North Union President, Nelson B. Smith. The topic selected was "Soul Winning" or "Winning Souls for Christ." The leader suggested that if each one would win at least one soul for Christ in a year what a mighty out-pouring of the Holy Spirit there would be in the hearts and lives of our Unioners. Each Christian was urged to try and by so doing, would not only lead a thirsty soul to the Living Water, but they themselves would be refreshed and stimulated for still greater service for the Master. Special prayer was offered for the blessing of God to rest upon and direct our County Missionary, P. S. McGregor, in his noble work. He needs our prayers as well as our financial support. Our district meetings gives us a grand opportunity to become better acquainted with each other, and thus extend our interest in a social way. After singing "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love," we separated with a greater desire kindled within us to win souls for our Master's kingdom.
M. M. H.

February 2.

AMHERST, N. S.

On the evening of Jan. 24th the B. Y. P. U. of Sackville, N. B., paid Amherst B. Y. P. U. a fraternal visit which was enjoyed exceedingly by our Union and, we trust, by our visitors as well. Very brief but telling speeches, music, refreshments and social intercourse constituted the order of exercises. One incident of interest to every B. Y. P. U. member of the Maritime Provinces was the presentation, by Judge Emmerson, President of the Maritime B. Y. P. U., of the beautiful S. L. C. banner to the Amherst Union, which, by virtue of having sent in the largest number of successful examination papers, becomes the custodian of the banner. It, perhaps, has escaped the minds of some that in the S. L. C. competition, which embraces all the United States and the Dominion of Canada, the Maritime B. Y. P. U. won the banner four successive years, from 1892 to 1896 inclusive. When in 1892 Rev. J. H. MacDonald went to Indianapolis come one there asked him why he came away from Nova Scotia? He replied, "I came to take back the banner," and verily he did so greatly to the surprise of all. Many then expressed the opinion that our cousins across the border had not really entered into the contest else this could not have happened, and of course it would not occur again; but when this state of affairs continued for four years that theory was dispelled. Not until the autumn of 1898, however, was a permanent award of the banner made. And now the Amherst Union (and we feel sure the whole Maritime B. Y. P. U. joins us) most heartily thanks the International B. Y. P. U. Executive for this decision and for the banner. The banner, which is a very beautiful one, was a gift to the International Executive from A. A. Ayer, Esq., of Montreal. Our Union reports six new active members since our annual meeting in July last. The S. L. C. class, taught by our pastor, J. H. McDonald, is made so interesting and instructive that it is largely attended, and those who do not or cannot go are greatly the losers. Our officers for the current term are: C. L. Martin, Pres.; Frank Smith, Vice-Pres.; Miss Margaret Wood, Rec. Sec'y; Miss Mary L. Bent, Treas.; Mrs. J. A. Christie, Cor. Sec'y; Miss Humeon, Supt. Junior Union.
February 10.

H. R. CHRISTIE, Cor. Sec'y.