

and Christian service as no other agency has ever done.

Canadian Methodism has, meantime, been feeling the need of a similar organization, and endeavouring to supply that need. Seven years ago, at the Hamilton General Conference, the present writer procured the passage of a resolution recommending the formation, wherever practicable, of young people's associations for home reading and religious culture on the lines of the Church Lyceum. The union of Methodism and reconstruction of our organization caused that scheme for the time to remain in abeyance. At the last General Conference the effort was repeated, and an influential committee* was appointed "to arrange for and carry out, at as early a period as possible," such a course of home reading and culture. That committee met twice, arranged and published a course of reading, chiefly in lines of Bible study. A considerable number of readers adopted and for some time followed it up, not without marked benefit. But still the association was not sufficiently well organized, nor sufficiently wide in its scope, and it did not take as was hoped, "like fire among the heather."

Meanwhile other associations for young people were springing up among us, excellent in their way, but owing no allegiance to Methodism, and in no way under the control of our Church, either as to the courses of prescribed reading, or general management, and having their chief affiliated relations in a foreign land. It is a bad thing for a young man to feel that he must go from his father's house to seek for the enjoyments and benefits which he ought to find at home. It is not a good thing for young people to think that they must leave the Church of their fathers for helpful religious association and religious enjoyment. The Methodist Church

is strong enough, its sympathies with its young people are warm enough to enable it to offer them every advantage and enjoyment that they can find anywhere. The need was felt for an organization which should be frankly and distinctively Methodist—which should cultivate, first of all, loyalty to the Church under whose fostering watch-care these young people are placed, and to the institutions of the country in which they live. The General Conference Committee was, therefore, again summoned, and the outlook considered. The newly-formed Epworth League was found to furnish just the nucleus of what seemed required for our needs. Its constitution and course of reading was remodelled to suit the special necessities of our Church and country, with the hearty and generous concurrence of the officials of the American Epworth League. It has met with the heartiest endorsement of many of our most successful pastors, Sunday-school officers, teachers and other workers among our young people.

It is commended to the Church, to the warm sympathy and co-operation of all pastors and teachers, of all existing Young Peoples' Associations, which can readily become affiliated with this new organization, and to all interested in the welfare of the young, with the prayer that, under the blessing of God, it may be a means of great spiritual and intellectual benefit to all who may be brought within the range of its influence.

The times are especially appropriate for such an organization. The age offers special opportunities and advantages to the young—opportunities of education, and of social and material advancement. It is the young in shop, and store, and factory, and office, who are largely carrying on the active business of the world. "I write unto you young men that

*The following are the names of the committee: Rev. John Potts, D.D., Rev. E. A. Stafford, D.D., LL.D., Rev. Hugh Johnston, D.D., Rev. B. F. Austin, B.D., Rev. Alex. Burns, D.D., LL.D., L. C. Peake, Esq., R. Brown, Esq., J. B. Boustead, Esq., and Rev. A. M. Phillips, M.A., Rev. Prof. Shaw, LL.D., Rev. S. Card, Rev. Dr. Burwash, S.T.D., George Bishop, Esq., Advisory Members. Rev. W. H. Withrow, Secretary.