

## HOW OUR YOUNG PEOPLE MAY HELP THE CHURCH SCHEMES.

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YOU will observe that there are *Schemes*, not one only, nor two, but many. Very often they all get merged in one, namely, missions, as though that was the alone scheme, which it is not.

There are the Colleges in Halifax, in Quebec, in Montreal, in Kingston, in Toronto, in Winnipeg; there are the Home Missions, the Foreign Missions, the French Evangelization work, the Augmentation Fund, the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, the Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, Coligny College debt, and the Assembly Fund, the Synod Fund, and the Presbytery Fund.

Our Church is engaged in a great work, of many parts, and all of them necessary. Each one is helpful of the other. And we should know something about them to awaken our interest in them and enlist our co-operation in support of them. All can help, the young as well as the old,

You may have heard the story of the boy who was assisting in pushing off a boat that was being launched; when an old man looking scornfully at him, asked him what he could do, the little fellow replied proudly, "I can push a pound." And that pound may have been just the full weight needed to make it go into the water, where it was to do its work. Every young person in the Church can help in the great work that is to be done.

But to do this they must be trained. And how trained?

Just as others are trained. A shoemaker is trained to make shoes by making them, a tailor to make clothes by making them, a telegrapher to send messages by sending them, a bookkeeper to keep books by keeping them, and a giver to any good work by giving. One cannot give if he never begins to give. And the earlier one begins the better. He who gives coppers when he has only coppers, will give silver when he gets silver, and gold when gold is his.

I remember very well the one enterprise brought before the young children in my early days, and the joy it gave us in Scotland to gather and give our pennies to equip a missionary ship for Old Calabar. But beyond that, no training was given to the young people in reference to the great enterprises the Church had undertaken. Not a word was spoken about them. We had no knowledge of them and consequently could have no interest in them. This is a sad lack. We do not wish our young people to grow up in such conditions. So I want to point out how they may help the schemes of the Church by raising money specially for them.

First, there is the mite-box. Each little child should have one in which to store up his savings for Colleges, or Home Missions, or Foreign Mis-

sions, or any other object he may select. Some young man or woman should charge herself or himself with the securing of the boxes, and their distribution, and at certain times the collection of the monies, when an address might be made on some scheme, to keep alive and maintain the interest already existing.

If this is properly attended to, and the children instructed to give a share of their money, it will be found that they can give as much, and even more, than many of the old people. If one has a supply of moveable rubber type he may stamp each child's name on his box, and add another interesting feature. Store the child's mind with thoughts of the heathen and their needs.

Second, there is what is usually called the talent scheme. This is for the young men and young women. It is giving them something to work with, to set them up in business. Something they may lay out for the Lord. It calls into play the needle, the pen, the plane, the skill of each in one direction or another, and not infrequently a very small grain of seed yields forty, sixty, or a hundred fold. It is amazing how much one may make when his mind is set on it, and especially when he is working unselfishly for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom. Let this be faithfully worked and the best results will follow.

Third, there is self-denial. A week of self-denial is becoming quite common among religious people. But our Lord calls not merely for a week of it now and then, but a steady life course of it. This is part of our distinction in following Christ (See Matt. 16-24). If we deny ourselves to help Christ's cause how delightful it is. It pleases the Lord, and it is exceedingly profitable to us.

How much we spend in self-gratification, in useless display, in foolish and empty pleasure! How much we waste! When our Lord told the disciples to gather up the fragments after the multitudes had been fed, it was to teach us to be careful and to waste nothing.

Self-denial may take many forms. Wearing a bit of apparel a little longer to get money for God's cause, puts a glory on the garment. And so of all else. As we do this we are laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust corrupt, nor thieves break thro' and steal.

**Orangeville** Orangeville Presbytery has a C.E. Pres. C.E. Union which held its first meeting at Orangeville, 8 Jan. The subjects discussed were "Personal Responsibility";—"The C. E. Pledge";—"Why am I a Presbyterian";—"Congregational Loyalty";—"What has C. E. done for your congregation";—"Our work, by Committees";—"Christian Citizenship";—"Our Junior work" &c. The meeting was a very helpful and successful one. The next meeting is fixed for Hillsburg in the first week of next June.