

Mary is not well since we moved back to our old surroundings and a few weeks in the country with the companionship of you and your lovely sister would do her a world of good, I'm sure.

If it is satisfactory to you we will arrive by stage, Friday, the twenty-second. Mary joins me in thanking you most heartily for your kind invitation.

Yours, as happy as a "Lamb" can be,

C. Lamb.

## The Boys' Brigade

In recent times a new interest was revived in the Boys' Brigade—the oldest of the Boys' Movements—by the annual competition for the J. R. Seymour Cup, emblematic of the Championship of British Columbia.

The display given by the boys was a revelation to many people present. The clean, neat and smart appearance of the boys was much commented upon.

Founded in Glasgow in 1883 from a small Sunday School Class by Mr. W. A. Smith (later Sir. Wm. A. Smith) of Glasgow, Scotland, it immediately grew to be the national Boys' Institution in the Old Land. Today it has 1,350 Companies, 6,500 Officers, 60,000 Non-commissioned Officers, and boys in the United Kingdom alone, and a conservative estimate of its strength throughout the world is given as 105,000 boys.

### INTER-DENOMINATIONAL.

The brigade is inter-denominational, each company being connected with a Church, Mission or other Christian organization.

Its object is "The Advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys, and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect, and all that tends towards a true christian manliness."

In addition to the weekly drill parade and bible-class, ambulance, physical training, gymnastics, football and baseball, swimming and life-saving, signalling, games, scouting, summer camps, educational lectures etc., are taken up according to the facilities available by the companies.

The two great assets of the B. B. are its bible-class and the discipline leaders secure by its methods. It is doubtful if any other organization gives leaders the "grip" over the lads the B. B. makes possible.

### EVERY CHURCH OR MISSION MAY ORGANIZE A COMPANY.

The simplicity and adaptability of the organization are such as to place the work within reach of almost every church or mission. The requirements are few, and the machinery very far from complicated.

### AN EXAMPLE OF DEVELOPMENT.

The smart uniform, which costs little, appeals to the boy and the competitive spirit encouraged arouses keen interest.

As an example of what can be done, almost ten years ago a company was started in St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, with four boys. It has consistently worked under greatly handicapped conditions, and today is as strong as ever. The strength of the company has never, even in war times, been less than 25 and has exceeded 50. The membership of the congregation is about 100 families. Twenty-eight old boys served with the colors, in the Great War.

### REMARKABLE PROGRESS AT MARPOLE.

Two or three months ago a company was organized at Marpole. So great has been the success that a junior brigade had to be started, and there are now over eighty boys on the roll and over 100 attend bible-class. Boys walk many miles to attend. The four churches have placed themselves behind the organi-

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zation and matters have developed rapidly, so that practically the whole area is now organized and a community centre formed. The success has been wonderful.

### WEST VANCOUVER CHAMPIONS.

At West Vancouver the work amongst boys was only moderately successful until they started a company of the Boy's Brigade. Today it is the most lively thing in the municipality. Although they have been organized only about two years they succeeded this year in wresting the championship trophy from the 5th. Vancouver, who had held the cup for seven consecutive years.

With so many men now fully trained in drill, there is an exceptional opportunity for churches and other christian organizations to organize companies now. This publication will be pleased to furnish any information enquirers may desire.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

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beautifully descriptive expression for the land of the Hereafter. To the Indian a good hunting ground was the sum of all happiness for it carried with it the means of existence and the opportunity for enjoyment for himself and his family. Hence that figure to him was the ideal paradise of blessedness. And the thing to remember is that it was, with him, not something he had learned from without but an intuition from the "true light which lighteneth every man that cometh into the world." Not far was it from the noble lines of the great mind and cultured Tennyson:

"My own dim life should teach me this  
That life shall live for evermore,  
Else earth is darkness at the core,  
And dust and ashes all that is."

### THE WAYSIDE TRAGEDY.

When one sees the tragedy of great minds closing themselves against the influence of these intuitions as to God and immortality, one can only feel that an unproportionate devotion of these minds to some special object like business or even study has led to a condition of hardness of heart by the constant trooping over it of these exclusively secular habits and practices. On that hard, worldly wayside the seeds of many flowers besides those of the Word fall only to die. Great thinkers like Spencer and Darwin confessed that they had lost all taste or desire for poetry or music, those fair flowers which make the path of life so pleasant. Spencer saw nothing in the wondrous Sistine Madonna and another dry-as-dust philosopher once asked what Paradise Lost was intended to prove as if it was a proposition in Euclid. Far better were Tennyson and Browning who sang their songs of faith in a generation when many feared that the foundations were being destroyed by the encroachments of materialistic science. Far better was Gladstone who declined to allow his mind to be swallowed up in devotion to secular things to the exclusion of religious thought. Far better is every one who recognizes that as another great writer said, there is a plant of reverence in our lives that will wither and die unless we keep it watered by the dews of our meditation and worship.

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