

A SYMPOSIUM

Has the B. Y. P. U. Been a Success, How?

From my acquaintance with the operations of the B. Y. P. U. Societies I regard their influence as salutary and helpful in the churches with which they are connected.
ISA. WALLACE.

The B. Y. P. U. is doing a good work in stimulating Bible study and training our young people to work intelligently in the service of Christ.
J. W. BANCROFT.
Springfield.

I consider the B. Y. P. U. in the interests of the denomination, and the greatest educator that we have today. Time alone will reveal the benefits and worth it has been. God prosper it.
W. S. SAUNDERS.

The B. Y. P. U. has evidenced to the Baptist young people the fact that they need not "board out," but may find good fare and ample accommodation in the "Baptist" home. Amen.
W. B. HINSON.
Moncton.

The societies of the B. Y. P. U. of whose work I have had any knowledge have done good service in securing study of the subjects suggested by the several courses arranged by the organization.
E. M. KEIRSTEAD.
Wolville.

In my opinion the B. Y. P. U. has been measurably successful in stimulating our young people's thirst for knowledge and developing their powers for service, and it is better farther on.
D. G. MACDONALD.
North Sydney, Cape Breton.

In my experience the B. Y. P. U. has proved a helpful means of interesting young people in Christian Culture, and a fine machine for turning out good work of a social, spiritual and financial nature.
J. D. FREEMAN.
Fredericton.

I believe our B. Y. P. U. has been a success, as I believe it has been the means of deepening and developing the spiritual life of both old and young who have been connected with it, and to some extent at least it has led to a greater study of God's word.
MRS. A. GUNN.
Belmont.

The B. Y. P. U. is doing a grand work. That it could accomplish more is true. Where properly led the young people have grown in spiritual power and service in the church. The movement is the hope of our churches. By its latent powers will be developed.
Z. L. FASH.
Liverpool.

As far as my information goes the Young People's Societies in our churches are acknowledging in fact as well as in theory the supremacy of the local church to the Society, and emphasizing the need of character and the power of the Spirit as well as culture for service. In so far as this is being done they are fulfilling gracious mission.
B. N. NOBLES.
Bear River.

In vain do I search the New Testament—that infallible and immutable standard of Baptist faith and practice—for any organization suggestive of, or corresponding to the B. Y. P. U. I have not, therefore, watched the operations and results of such societies very carefully. Nevertheless I sincerely hope they may have done some good.
J. DENOVAN.
Wolville.

My opinion of the Young People's Societies is that they are good, are helpful to the church, and to a wise pastor a great blessing. There may be evils connected with them, but it has not been my misfortune to find them. As I have seen them in experience, they ought to be encouraged and fostered by every live pastor.
J. W. MANNING.
St. John.

The Young People's Society supplies a long felt need in our churches. It gives the young Christians something to do and they are better Christians for doing it. In a few years our churches will become more spiritual, more Scriptural, more aggressive and more missionary, as a result of the special effort among the young people.
C. H. MARTELL.
Canard.

I am happy to inform you that our B. Y. P. U. has done much to stimulate and encourage our young people to fuller consecration and to more earnest effort in the cause of Christ. Our society is doing good work among the young people, and they, of course, are the hope of the church.
E. C. BAKER.
Brookfield, Queens Co., N. S.

Yes. How? By giving occupation and guidance in the critical teen-period. By working young Christians in from the outskirts toward the thick of the fight. By increasing sociability, sympathy, enlightenment and faithful and fruitful effort in the winning of the world to Christ.
A. C. CHUTE.
Halifax.

B. Y. P. Union.

I think the B. Y. P. U. has been a success in these respects: It has made the young more intelligent Christians; has brought them into closer touch with the pastor and with our denominational interests and life; it has also helped to make the young feel and share more largely in the responsibility of church work.
Summerside, W. H. ROBINSON.

It has been a success, but in many cases only to a limited extent, on account of only partial work outlined being taken up by the societies. How? Principally from its C. C. Courses. Young Baptists have been made more intelligent and brought into closer church relations, while older Baptists have become stronger in the faith.
Amherst, MARY SMITH.

Increased knowledge of our Lord, attachment to His church and loyalty to His work, with a consequent growth of grace, has been the unfailing result in every really active member of the B. Y. P. U. Unions with which I have been identified. But, O, for more really active members. God bless and prosper the B. Y. P. U. is the prayer of
W. P. PARKER.
Yarmouth.

B. Y. P. U. has been a success: 1. In strengthening the Christian life of young Christians. 2. In giving them confidence to take part publicly. 3. In giving them Scriptural coherence in their prayers and testimonies. 4. In giving them increased interest in Bible study and missions. 5. In helping young people to come to Christ. Out of 15 who were baptized at Tryon during Association year just closed, 12 were associates of our Union.
Tryon, P. E. I. DAVID PRICE.

The B. Y. P. U. in connection with the First Baptist church of Truro has been in successful operation for some years. It has been the means in God's hands of developing the young people in the Christian life, and their initiation into Christian work. They have availed themselves of the Christian Culture Courses to a limited extent, which, as an educator, has been of great service and interest to those who have taken the courses.
Truro, N. S. T. M. KING.

We can never put the full value on our blessings when we look at them in the abstract. Only by comparing what we have with their former absence, and the two states incidental to both can we estimate the value of our B. Y. P. U. In my church the advanced condition of many of my young people is notable as compared with the young of a former generation. This augurs well for the church of the future, which ought to be strong, aggressive and victorious in its onward march to glory.
Truro, H. F. ADAMS.

The B. Y. P. U. movement has been a grand success in many places, whilst in other communities its benefits have been comparatively meagre, and there are sections in which the enterprise has proved to be a complete failure. Success in this work depends on the manner in which it is dealt with by pastors and interested helpers. When the movement is vigorously and systematically pushed forward it results in awakening new life in the young, increasing their love for Bible study and leading them step by step into the fellowship of the church.
Central Bedouque, W. H. WARREN.

In reply to question: "Has the B. Y. P. U. been a success and how?" would say that from careful observation, and from actual contact as president, I believe it to be a potent factor in binding together all our young people in Christian unity and love, in developing their unused talents, in inspiring to study along denominational lines, in stimulating to greater activity in all branches of church life and work. Thus it strengthens the weak and encourages the strong to earnest, loving service for God and humanity.
GEO. A. McDONALD.
Halifax, N. S., July 16.

One cannot well pronounce a judgment upon the work of the B. Y. P. U. from an isolated case like that of our own, which I regret to say has not as yet realized our expectations. My personal knowledge of other Unions has assured me of their usefulness and necessity. Our young people need the Union in every church, or, at least, a society that shall do so much for them in the way of Christian culture, and of instruction in the principles of the New Testament; and that shall keep them in constant touch with all our church and denominational enterprises.
Billtown, July 16, M. P. FREEMAN.

In reply to your question, I beg leave to say that in the peculiar kind of work that has provisionally fallen to my lot as pastor—reconciling, reconstructing, building, paying debts, and laboring for the spiritual interest of the churches, I have in all these departments invariably found the young people's societies sources of help and inspiration. I recognize in this organization, if wisely directed, possibilities of great success. If not wisely directed, possibilities of division and final disaster to the best interest of the church of Jesus Christ. Knowing as I do the intelligence and consecration of our young people, I anticipate not the latter but the former.
Yours, J. A. GORDON.

Without a doubt the B. Y. P. U. has been a success. I became a member in 1891, and since then have watched it very closely. In every church, both large and small, city or country, where the B. Y. P. U. has been properly

organized and looked after, I have found an increased interest in all the church work. The regular prayer meetings have been more largely attended. Bible study has been carried on more regularly and systematically. Christian benevolence has been developed, the interest in both Home and Foreign Missions has been deepened and the faithful study of the S. L. Course has strengthened our Baptist back bone.
Halifax, G. A. LAWSON.

I firmly believe in their utility, if properly conducted of course. I have had to do with several, and was a member of one in the infancy of the movement, and have seen it grow into a good, healthy, large signed organization, still with the "dew of youth" upon it, and the "vigor of youth in it."
"Christianity at work"—new lightism used to be called by some, and from that great movement we have the Organized Baptist churches, and their great interests of today. And let our B. Y. P. U. show itself to be "Our young Christians at work for God and for human souls," preparing for the great battle which the churches must always wage.
St. George, July 15, A. H. LAVERS.

Most things (movements) in this world have good and evil mixed, B. Y. P. U. has less evil than any known to me. Some of the good. 1. Socially, in bringing all the young people into acquaintance and friendship. 2. Business education, as to committee work and the management of meetings, speaking for or against a motion or announcement, placing our thoughts before others, learning to talk and differ without personal feelings. 3. Devotional, by enabling the young and diffident to break the ice and take part in their little gatherings, after which their voices and influence go into the church meetings. 4. To the elders the activity of the young people has served as a spur and encouragement.
J. PARSONS.

At the end of one, and that my first, year's connection with a Young People's Society, our own B. Y. P. U., I consider it an unqualified success. 1. In awakening in young people that active interest which comes only through knowledge of its workings and affairs and naturally results in a sense of responsibility for its maintenance and progress in things material and spiritual. 2. In developing in them a true sense of kinship in Christ, with a loyal rallying, as a body, in His service. 3. In educating a real obedience to the Divine commands. 4. In nourishing a progressive, quickening and deepening of their spiritual life, with fruitage of good work. "Our sons are as plants grown up in their youth; our daughters as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace."
Truro, N. S. J. C. SMITH.

The B. Y. P. U. movement has made the young members of the churches to realize as never before, that they had something to do, and has led them to assume a definite share of responsibility. The educative work has been of the highest good to us; we have been led to understand the Bible better, to see things in their historical settings; we have been developed in charity, and especially in that aspect of charity which consists in bearing our proportion of financial burdens; while the specifically devotional element has taken on new fervor.

The progress of all young people's societies has been phenomenal, and will, I think, be continuous if they will 1. Keep it young. Don't be governed by the older element in the churches. 2. Keep among the older members. Don't segregate to yourselves. Be a part of the church in everything.
D. A. STEELE.

1st What is success? As I would define it the society is not a success and will not be. A church and congregation has only so much energy to expend. If this is expended in B. Y. P. U. the church feels the drain in proportion as they have an interest in B. Y. P. U. do they lose interest in regular church work. It tends to belittle preaching service and lessen congregation on such. It weakens and makes less effective the regular prayer meeting of the church. "I am interested in B. Y. P. U. prayer meetings, hence as I can't take in two I canvas and work for that." You say this should not be and I say amen, but so far as my observation goes this is the tendency. What we wanted in the church was not more societies and more meetings but to put more power and life, spiritual, into what we had. It to my mind has been like a fifth wheel on a coach. As a religious institution you can't very well improve on the church of Christ. I think it as well to bring your people to that standard at once. I have known many cases with result I have indicated.
Centreville, Carleton Co., N. B. JOS. A. CAHILL.

The young people's movement embodied in the Baptist Union, the Y. P. S. C. E., the Epworth League, etc., marks an epoch in church history. It is both an indication and an instrumentality of progress, not of decadence. Where wisely directed it strengthens the church. The younger members of the churches felt their capability and perceived their inactivity. The older people were doing all the work. So the young people organized themselves to undertake by themselves what the older ones were doing for them or not doing at all. They have already learned to do these things well—better in many cases than their elders—to carry on church business, to conduct prayer meetings, to study the Scriptures and other sources of Christian knowledge systematically, to plan and to work on a larger scale in conventions. Through all this has doubtless been gained much spiritual growth. But there is need that the young people keep constantly in mind that, as they are only a part of the church, it is their duty to act always *with and in*, not *apart from* the church.
Fredericton, HERBERT C. CREED.