

No leader has that aim, we may safely say, but still a great deal depends upon him. A leader, for instance, who takes all the time allotted to him and also something over half of what should be occupied by the members, is a leader who does much to spoil the meeting. On the other hand, he must not be too brief, so that the members have more time than they can occupy, for then the meeting will drag, and there will be long and ominous silences—presaging the death of the meeting.

The same leader should not be chosen too often, for, as variety is the spice of life so it also is the spice of the Endeavor meeting. Especially should an extremely good leader or an extremely poor one not lead too frequently. By a good leader is meant one capable of giving an able address. If this leader speaks very often, the shy, less capable members get the idea that because they cannot do as well they cannot do anything at all, and so will not take part. As for the poor leader—who can say but little and stumbles nervously over the little he does say—the audience grows tired and nervous also, fearing his breakdown. God knows how great his struggle is and marks the effort and the love prompting it, but the audience is not often overburdened with sympathy and grows very restless.

The Members.

Last, but most important, are the members themselves; they have more to do with the success or failure of the meeting than anything else. To be properly prepared for the Endeavor meeting they should come feeling that they are ready to help in the meeting. This will not be the case if the topic is not prepared at home by study and prayer. If the members know nothing and care less about the topic or meeting it will be killed without doubt. No merit of the leader can avail when the members are indifferent, and these very members are the ones to blame the leader if the meeting is not as bright and lively as it should be. A successful meeting is one in which anybody and everybody takes part. If the members do not know how to answer questions or take part in a discussion they have yet much to learn, and have missed the greatest brightness of the meeting.

Then the harsh criticism by the members, one of another and of the leader, is strongly conducive to the death of the Endeavor meeting. This sort of criticism looks through the wrong end of the telescope at the merits of others; and as the mean little remarks seldom fail to reach and sting the one criticised, it is no wonder he does not willingly try again. Members should look far ahead in this matter, and if they *must* criticise let them remember to "tread softly, for the echoes of our footsteps shall resound throughout all eternity." No real Christian would purposely say things to hurt another, but "evil is wrought by want of thought as well as by want of heart." Judge not, O critic, that ye be not judged, "for with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again." Because the tongue may be

faltering and the grammar not perfect is no valid reason why you should find fault. If your members are not afraid of the criticism of their fellows they will be more willing to take part.

Let the members fail of brotherly love and any good that might have come from the meeting will not be felt. Let the members say spiteful things about each other before the meeting begins and it will be killed without fail. Solon, the ancient Greek, passed a decree making it a punishable crime to speak evil of anyone, and his countrymen esteemed him as one of their wise men. Only let one of our legislators suggest such a law, and—alas for him! Saying mean things, one of another, has done wonders in killing Endeavor meetings. Yet some people seem to delight in it!

Still another way in which to kill your prayer meeting is to always sing the same hymns, and to sing them as if you didn't care what you sung or how you sung it; or the same result can be attained by every now and again singing two or three new pieces to tunes only one or two know, accompanying them with a poor, squeaky organ or none at all.

In conclusion, I may say that the meeting will certainly be killed unless the hearts of the members are full of their pledge, their work, and their God; but if this is their happy condition, then the prayer meeting will live and flourish, true brotherly love will abound, and the blessing of God will rest upon all the society's efforts.

Columbus, Ont.



To Canada: A Birthday Ode.

By S. John Duncan-Clark.

O H, dearest land of mine take heed!
Amid the glory of these days
That bring thee universal praise,
For wealth, and worth and well wrought deed.

God's heaven smiled upon thy face,
And lo! thy hills have caught her smile,
And prisoned it in gold—the while
'Tis grasped for by an eager race.

God's sun hath kissed thy fertile fields,
God's showers have satisfied thy plains,
And lo! a wealth of golden grains,
Responsively thy bosom yields.

God's grace hath blessed thy stalwart youth
With strength of limb and virile mind,
So they may never come behind
In test of might, and search for truth.

God's heart hath filled thy maidens' hearts
With love for purity and good,
So that from noblest womanhood
The life-spring of thy people starts.

So 'mid the nations of the earth—
Young though thou art—thy place is proud,
And thine the plaudits of the crowd
For well wrought deed and wealth and worth.

But dearest land of mine take heed!
Amid the glory of these days
That bring thee universal praise,
Let God receive His rightful meed!