

## JULY 14.—SELF-CONTROL A MARK OF STRENGTH. Prov. 16: 32.

**Central Thought.**—It is easier to do great deeds than to control our own thoughts and impulses.

**Approach.**—In the days of the early rulers of Israel the people were surrounded with enemies. No sooner was one tribe conquered than another would arise to harass the Hebrews. Even the Ark of the covenant at one time was carried away by the Philistines.

When Saul was made king he was very brave. Scarcely had he been chosen when he was met by messengers who told him of a shameful slavery that was being put upon a part of his people.

Quickly rallying the frightened Israelites, he went before them against the enemy and won a great victory, so that we are told of the Ammonites that "they that remained were scattered, so that not two of them were left together." And all Israel rejoiced greatly. (1 Sam. 11: 1-11.)

This great king met his downfall from his jealousy of the young captain, David. David's loyalty to his king never wavered, but because he was brave, Saul was jealous of him and endeavored to kill him. From that time on the king grew evil in his ways until he lost favor with God and his kingdom was taken from him.

**Reason.**—The words of our psalm were written by the son of that same captain, David, who was made king after Saul. David was a brave and a great man who tried to control himself as well as his people, and who died an old man beloved of everyone.

Solomon inherited the kingdom of Israel when it was at its highest glory; his prayer at his coronation was for wisdom to guide it well. He wrote the words of our lesson text and many others of great truth; and it was he who built the great temple. Yet this king who was led aside by his wives after idols. Though he did not worship them himself he was not strong enough to say "No." God was displeased, and at his death the kingdom was divided.

**Heart Talk.**—It would be easier for many men to rescue another from drowning or burning than to refuse an invitation to drink a glass of liquor. It is easier to thrash a boy who is insulting than to hold one's tongue and walk off. It is easier to do a long day's work helping mother than to keep one's temper when a cherished picture, doll or vase is broken. But God said through Solomon—"He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city."—*Junior Worker's Quarterly.*

Gen. Baden-Powell gave his experience in smoking to a meeting of the International Anti-Cigarette League at Leeds. He had learned to smoke when he was young and foolish, but he gave it up when he went in for rifle shooting. After giving it up, he became a very fair shot. When he went to the West Coast of Africa, the most unhealthy climate in the world, he was advised to smoke at night to keep away the mosquitoes. But after the third night he "chucked" away his pipe and went through the campaign without tobacco, and he has known he was the only one out of over three thousand men who did not get fever. On the campaign in Matabeleland he learned that scouts did not smoke because it destroyed the power of smell and injured the eyesight. Smoking is not necessary for men, but it is very bad for boys. No boy ever takes to smoking because he likes it, but because he wants to look like a man. Instead, said the general, he simply looks like a little fool, and when he smokes for fear of other fellows laughing at him, it shows that he is a little coward as well."

## The Wesley Guild of British Wesleyan Methodism

Through the kindness of the General Secretary, Rev. W. B. Fitzgerald, we are able to present the accompanying account of the young people's work in the Wesleyan Church. Though this article did not reach our readers in time for the last meeting in March, it will be of interest and value not only in itself but as affording a good opportunity for a closer study of our own Epworth League constitution and methods of work.—Ed.

The Wesley Guild is one of the youngest of the modern Young People's Societies. It was founded in 1895, and its progress during the last sixteen years has been encouraging. The ten years ending with the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of 1911 illustrate its progress. When the Twentieth Century came in there were 1,298 Branches of the Guild, and 83,499 members. Now we have 2,675 Branches and 174,677 members. In other words, the numbers have more than doubled in a decade. During this period the Junior Guild has come into existence, and promises to be an educational agency of untold good. The Guild has also taken deep root in the Foreign Field, where it has been adapted to the requirements of young Methodists of all colors.

The leading characteristic of the Wesley Guild is *Comprehensiveness*. It touches all sides of young life. By means of its four departments—Educational, Literary, Christian Service and Social and Recreative—it endeavors to bring all the interests of youth under the control of religion. The rotation of meetings corresponds to the Departments named above, and an earnest spiritual purpose pervades them all.

The monthly Devotional Meeting has become quite a spiritual power in the Church. Its keynote is Consecration, and it is, as a rule, more largely attended than any other. The mayor of one of our industrial towns in the North of England, kept in town by civic duties during the hot weeks of July, was across to his church one brilliant Monday evening, to encourage, as he said, "the few faithful young folk who might turn up on the Devotional Night." He found a room full, one hundred and fifty strong. A minister in a Lancashire cotton town stated recently that he averaged two hundred members present at his Guild Devotional. An interesting Book of Topics and Programmes is issued every year, and is usually based upon some helpful devotional text-book.

Evangelistic work has been one of the strong points of the movement from the beginning. In many circuits the town Guilds form cycle corps for the purpose of visiting the villages during the summer months. Many a flagging cause has been stirred to new life by these efforts. In one case, typical of hundreds, the congregation had almost reached vanishing point in a chapel holding a hundred people. There was no society class, no prayer meeting, no Sunday School. The energetic, prayerful efforts of a small group of Guilders completely altered the state of affairs. To-day the chapel is full, a hearty society class has been started, there is a Band of Hope of seventy children, and the Guild is the life and soul of everything.

The Wesley Guild sets before its members the definite aim of getting into touch with every young man and woman, every boy and girl, in congregation, school, and neighborhood. Some Branches have attained phenomenal success. One at Luton has raised its membership to over seven hundred; another at Leigh reports five hundred; while Branches from two to three hundred members are fairly common. When it is remembered

that Guild membership carries with it adherence to pledges which involve both loyalty and sacrifice, these facts are very significant.

Missionary enthusiasm has been one of the keynotes of the movement from the very commencement. It is amazing how much is done by our Guilds in aid of local efforts, and now, over and above all this, the Guild as a whole has made itself responsible for the maintenance of a medical missionary and hospital in West Africa, where, up to the present, no hospital exists.

The Wesley Guild has its magazine, called "The Guild," issued monthly. It has a large and growing circulation, and steadily gains in popularity. Another department of work is known as the Travel Club, which arranges holidays for young people during the summer months, both in Great Britain, and in Switzerland and Norway. These holidays have done a great deal to deepen and strengthen the comradeship of the movement.

The Wesley Guild Charter, which is presented to every newly-formed Guild, expresses very tersely the aims and ideals of the movement. It reads as follows:—

The Wesley Guild Central Council certifies the enrolment of the..... Branch as a fully accredited and affiliated Guild.

We welcome you into a great Comradeship intended to include all Young Methodists at Home or Over the Seas.

We invite you to a whole-hearted consecration of Body, Soul and Spirit to the Lord Jesus Christ.

We also most earnestly urge you to the diligent culture of the mind, so that you may give to God thoughtful and intelligent service.

And thus united in spirit and purpose, we ask you to give yourselves heartily to that holy crusade of Christendom, which is the supreme aim of the Guild, and which includes the enrolment of every young Methodist in our membership.

The strengthening and advancement of the Wesleyan Methodist Church; and sincere and vigorous co-operation with all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in the endeavour to bring about the speedy evangelisation of the world.

Signed

President of Conference.  
Conseal Secretary.

While it would be too much to affirm that all Guilds reach this high level, yet a lofty standard is maintained, and an earnest desire to be loyal to it is evidenced by an overwhelming majority of our workers.

## The Saloon Bar

A bar to heaven, a door to hell,  
Whoever named it, named it well;  
A bar to manliness and wealth,  
A door to want and to ill-health;  
A bar to honor, pride, and fame,  
A door to want and grief and shame;  
A bar to hope, a bar to prayer,  
A door to darkness and despair;  
A bar to honored, useful life,  
A door to brawling, senseless strife;  
A bar to all that's true and brave,  
A door to every drunkard's grave;  
A bar to joys that home imparts,  
A door to tears and aching hearts;  
A bar to heaven, a door to hell;  
Whoever named it, named it well.