

The Canadian . . .

Epworth Era

ORGAN OF THE EPWORTH LEAGUES AND
OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES
IN THE METHODIST CHURCH.

Published Monthly at TORONTO, ONT.

REV. A. C. CREWS, * * Editor.
REV. WM. BRIGGS, D.D., Publisher.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE, 50 cts. per year. The price will be the same for one copy, or for one hundred. It is the lowest figure at which a paper like this can be published.

SUBSCRIPTIONS should be sent direct to the office of publication addressed to Rev. WILLIAM BRIGGS, Wesley Buildings, Toronto; or to C. W. COATES, Methodist Book Room, Montreal; or Rev. S. F. KERR, Methodist Book Room, Halifax, N.S.

ALL ORDERS for Topic Cards, Pledge Cards, Charters, Epworth League Reading Course or other League Supplies, should be sent to one of our Book Rooms at Toronto, Montreal or Halifax.

COMMUNICATIONS for this Paper, News Items, etc., should be addressed to the Editor, Rev. A. C. CREWS, Wesley Buildings, Toronto.

Editorial.

Among Our Cousins.

During the last two weeks of June we had the privilege of attending a short series of District Conventions in the State of Illinois. There were several things that impressed us that may be of some general interest. The meetings were held during one of the hottest weeks on record, but the attendance was good and the interest manifested quite remarkable. The churches were full each night and the people sweltered in the torrid weather, but stayed to the end. Our friends of the Methodist Episcopal Church believe in the Epworth League, and are satisfied that it is worth working. At each convention, with one exception, caused by illness, the Presiding Elder was present, and nearly all the preachers.

The method of conducting the exercises was exceedingly business-like. No time was wasted either at the beginning or the close. At the evening services the speaker was on his feet a few minutes past eight, and when he was through the meeting was instantly closed. There were no votes of thanks or remarks by the chairman, and no unnecessary "palaver" of any kind, but the closing hymn was immediately announced and the benediction pronounced. It was a refreshing contrast to some conventions on this side of the line, where we have seen a chairman spend half an hour vainly trying to close up a meeting.

The absence of the "vote of thanks" did not, by any means, indicate any lack of appreciation, for a large proportion of the audience took occasion to personally thank the speaker for his words.

These conventions were held upon historic ground, and covered a large part of the territory where Peter Cartwright preached and labored for fifty years. There is a different type of Methodism in Illinois than in the time of this veteran of the cross. The people are not so demonstrative in their religion, and there

is absolutely no "shouting" in the services, but they are just as spiritual and just as earnest as in the old times. The early morning prayer-meetings and the closing consecration services were wonderfully inspiring and helpful. There seemed to be a quick response to any reference to the spiritual and evangelistic aim of the League.

The class meeting scarcely exists among these people. For some reason or other it has died out, but Christian testimony is by no means a thing of the past. A much larger proportion of the people gave their religious experiences at these conventions than would be heard at similar gatherings in our own Church. The preachers in this Illinois Conference all go in for revival services, and the man who would close up his year's work without having attempted any evangelistic work would have to answer some rather pointed questions at the annual district meeting. During the past year there have been large in-gatherings everywhere. On the Danville District there have been over one thousand conversions.

These practical, go-ahead Methodists pay much attention to the boys and girls, and the work of the Junior League is greatly emphasized. At the Danville District Convention about sixty boys of the Epworth Guards attended and added much to the interest of the occasion.

Said our friend: "When I first exposed that grain several of the birds at dead ones; but since then not a grain has been taken. The little rascals pass it right by, and take only what they find on the ground for the 'bants.' I feed more wheat to the thievish sparrows than to my fowls; but there seems to be no help for it—they are too sharp and wise for me, and I don't care to waste powder and shot on them."

Standing against a brick wall on the corner, of the same town, was a man three parts intoxicated. The pastor had induced him to come to church, and had hoped for his reformation; but, it seemed, without avail. Going up to him, the preacher said:

"Jim, how is this? Drunk again? Why don't you stop altogether, and be a man?"

"Mr. ———," said he, "I can't! I've been to every doctor in town to get straightened up, one time and another; but it's no good."

"You're killing yourself," said the pastor.

"I know it," said he, "it's poison I'm taking; but I can't leave it alone."

Asking the question we now put, we passed on our way. Can you answer it?

How much wiser is a sparrow than a man?

A Hundred Monuments.

In a recent visit to the beautiful village of Fonthill, we saw more than a hundred monuments, which commemorate the public spirit of a citizen who died some years ago. They are in the form of magnificent, full-grown trees which line the streets on both sides.

Years ago this gentleman invested a considerable sum in setting out trees on the public thoroughfare, and now that he is gone, the trees remain to keep his memory green. The people appreciate his generosity, and will not on any account allow any one of the trees to be destroyed. Such monuments are better than those of stone or marble, for they minister to the comfort and happiness of the living.

Our towns, villages and country roads might be greatly beautified by planting more trees.

Alarming.

The *New York Christian Advocate* gives the following description of a lamentable condition of affairs:

"A Methodist church has not far from three hundred members; it is beautifully located amidst an intelligent population, and on pleasant Sundays quite well attended. But seldom is the voice of any member under forty years of age heard in the weekly prayer-meeting, nor do more than three below that age take active interest in the church, and these are perhaps twenty-five or twenty-eight years of age. The young men of the congregation seldom attend the morning service, and not many of them attend the evening service. Even in the social assemblies and entertainments of the church the workers are generally women in middle life. Yet the community swarms with

S
Dur
town
some f
quent
claim
matter
order
forces,
for the
school
day in
Such a
the lar
it is de
school.
occasio
directio
vertises

THE
heard of
The nan
of chara
There
who are
accompl
plenty o
"The
a charac
churches
they are
and must
of chara
desirable