

A Spell of Madness.

Look not upon the wine when it
Is red in the cup!
Stay not for pleasure when she fills
Her tempting beaker up!
Though clear its depths, and rich its glow,
A spell of madness lurks below.

They say 'tis pleasant on the lip,
And merry on the brain;
They say it stirs the sluggish blood,
And dulls the tooth of pain.
Aye, but within its glowing deeps
A stinging serpent, unseen, sleeps.

Its rosy light will turn to fire,
Its coolness change to thirst,
And by its mirth within the brain
A sleepless worm is nursed;
There's not a bubble at the brim
That does not carry food for him.

Then dash the brimming cup aside,
And spill its purple wine;
Take not its madness to thy lips,
Let not its curse be thine.
'Tis red and rich—but grief and woe
Are hid those rosy depths below.

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A PAPER FOR OUR YOUNG FOLK

Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 23, 1889.

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE.

HOME READING, AND CHRISTIAN WORK FOR YOUNG PEOPLE.

"I desire to form a League, offensive and defensive, with every soldier of Christ Jesus."—JOHN WESLEY.

THE growing intelligence, and religious and social needs of the young people of our Sunday-schools and congregations, have created the necessity for a vigorous organization for the promotion of their spiritual life and intellectual culture. For this purpose the Epworth League has been formed. Its design is to give guidance and help to the reading of our young people—especially in the study of the Bible, and in the principles and institutions of Methodism; to encourage them to take part in devotional meetings, and to engage in Christian work suitable to their age, and such as shall engage their sympathies and initiate their young hearts in the joy of doing good.

Social enjoyment is not forgotten; and the departments of Temperance and Missions receive much attention.

Under the authority of the General Conference, influential committees have been for some time engaged in adapting to the need of our Church and

country an organization, the details of which will be more fully announced hereafter.

It is a comprehensive organization, which may embrace in some of its departments any or all of the Young People's Societies now existing in our Church, and combine them in a higher unity and harmony. It is so flexible as to be adapted to almost any conditions, and so comprehensive as to embrace the Methodism of the whole Dominion.

We bespeak for it the hearty co-operation of all the ministers, Sunday-school superintendents, teachers, and

Christian parents of our Church; and, above all, of the young people of our Sunday-schools and congregations.

The purpose of the society is to band our young people together in a league for mutual help and improvement, to build up a noble Christian character, to benefit and bless heart and mind and soul. No time should be lost in organizing local branches of the League before the winter comes on.

Send to the undersigned Secretary for pamphlets giving full information as to methods of operation, suggested course of reading, etc., which will be mailed free.

By order of the General Conference Committee,
W. H. WITHROW, Secretary.

On behalf of the following Committee, appointed by the General Conference:—

Rev. John Potts, D.D., Rev. E. A. Stafford, D.D., LL.D., Rev. Hugh Johnston, D.D., Rev. B. L. Austin, B.D., Rev. Alexander Burns, D.D., LL.D., L. C. Peake, Esq., R. Brown, Esq., J. B. Boustead, Esq.; and Rev. A. M. Phillips, M.A., Rev. Prof. Shaw, LL.D., Rev. S. Card, Rev. Dr. Burwash, S.T.D., and Geo. Bishop, Esq., Advisory Members.

And on behalf of the General Conference Sunday-school Board,

W. H. WITHROW, Secretary.

"OUR OWN COUNTRY."

To place before the minds of Canadians a graphic picture of the great heritage which belongs to them, to give a just conception of the resources, and strengthen belief in the future greatness of their country, is a patriotic aim sure of a wide and hearty response.

We have too little of the literature which reminds us of our birthright as Canadians, nor do we know the size and grandeur of the task which that birthright imposes. The continuity of our short national life with the historic memories of England, will never be broken; but these glorious memories ought not to foster a condition of the public mind which tends to weaken self-reliance, and the vigorous striving for a national career.

In other words, a love for the motherland is quite consistent with a still greater love for Canada, and we need a better setting-forth of the facts which confirm a belief and hope in the future greatness of our country.

The Rev. Dr. Withrow, in "Our Own Country," has certainly given a valuable contribution to our patriotic literature. He has given us a luminous



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statement of facts which cannot fail to foster a just national pride. The foreign opinion of Canada's position and resources, has been for a long time vitiated by dense ignorance of our rich heritage and its future possibilities.

The populations of Europe have looked upon the United States as the natural home of those who desired to escape from the burdens of continental government, and have been ignorant of the fact that a country just as large and free occupies the northern half of the continent. Canada has had just as much to offer to the European emigrant, but she has not taken sufficient advantage of her own power and importance in this respect. Comparatively little effort has hitherto been made to let Europeans know who and what we are, and the result has been an unjust belittlement in the estimation of those who ought to know and are anxious to know.

We venture to say, that the circulation of Dr. Withrow's book abroad would greatly aid in bringing about a better understanding and appreciation of Canada. Though foreign interest is now more awakened than it has been, yet there is much room for a wider diffusion of knowledge in regard to our young and vigorous Canadian nationality.

Dr. Withrow's book gives this knowledge in a manner which attracts and instructs. He begins with a general description of the extent and resources of the Dominion, and then devotes his attention to the several Provinces, pointing out their products, describing their chief cities and towns, and bringing out in bold relief the stirring scenes and memories which mark our history.

Dr. Withrow has travelled the length and breadth of the Dominion, and most of his descriptions are from personal observation. We think his account of the Niagara frontier, and particularly of the old town of Niagara and the historic ground along the river bank as far as Queenston, cannot fail to delight those who read it. It would be difficult, however, to specify points of interest in a volume where there are so many.

The illustrations are numerous and beautiful. There is not an interesting part of the whole country which has not been pictorially illustrated as well as described. Manitoba and the North-West have received a large share of attention.

On the whole, we can commend Dr. Withrow's book as in every way worthy of a wide acceptance by the Canadian public.—*Guardian*.

SPEAK not well of yourself nor ill of others.