

THE

Canadian Epworth Era

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF
WORK IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

At Home with the Editor

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A Matter for the Ministers

—A larger question than the perpetuity of any existing young people's organization confronts us.

—The Epworth League as now existent doubtless does not represent the ultimate form of Methodist young people's work.

—The problem for study and practical solution is that of the church's whole duty to the young life under its direction and care.

—This is ever pressing because the youth are ever with us, their welfare must be constantly considered, and a fitting place in the working forces of the church be provided for them.

—If the Epworth League does not make sufficient provision for the welfare of the young, if it does not afford appropriate or adequate means for their usefulness some other and better organization must be devised.

—Will the ministers who ought to be studying the problem of the church's duty to the young, who ought to have the welfare of their children and youth on their hearts, and who have allowed the Epworth League on their circuits to die, kindly tell us what they have substituted for it, and what improvements have resulted? We want to know.

Cheerfulness

Much of gloom in the world is produced by the tendency in too many of us to look on the dark side. There is much to dishearten, but there is more to hearten and inspire. Clouds will gather; but we need not magnify their density by our fears and forebodings of the approaching thunder. More likely than not the blackness will be dispersed without disaster overwhelming us. Be cheerful! There is sunshine everywhere. Live in it. A little girl was eating, and as she lifted the spoon from her plate, the sparkling sunbeams played upon it, and she cried out in glee, "O, mamma, I have swallowed a spoonful of sunshine." Happy child! Would that more of us knew the delights of such a wholesome beverage. It is God's best gift to humanity, and so readily obtained that none need be impoverished for lack of it. The happy art of enjoying it and popularizing the use of it, is within reach of us all. Let us become skillful in the practice. Thus shall we take to our own profit and pass on to the advantage of our neighbors, the Lord's injunction, "Be of good cheer."

Great Expectations

We have read somewhere that when the missionary William Morrison was buying his ticket in a New York ship-owner's office, the merchant remarked to him, rather sneeringly: "And so, Mr. Morrison, you really expect that you will make an impression on the idolatry of the great Chinese Empire?" The reply was characteristic: "No, sir; I expect God will." Were his expectations well founded? Are they being realized? Is Christianity in China making an impression? A century ago there were no native Protestant Christians there. In fifty years about one thousand had been won. In twenty-five years more the numbers had increased to twenty-five thousand. To-day there are fully two hundred thousand. And we have no grounds for thinking that there will be any diminution in the rate of increase. The native

Christians are as staunch and true as in our own land. The numbers of workers are increasing yearly, and should grow with greater rapidity than ever. And back of all is God, pledged to fulfil His word. Truly, when God and man cooperate in world-wide evangelization great things may be expected, and great results will follow.

Talking With the Eyes

It was a beautiful and suggestive expression that a little child made to her mother. The daughter had been sitting on mother's knee, and quiet prevailed as sleep was being wooed. Looking up into the maternal face, the little one said: "Mamma, you're talking to me." "No, dear," said the mother. "I didn't say a word." "Yes, you did, mamma," replied baby; "I saw you talking to me with your eyes. You said, 'I love you.'" With quick native perception the child had read the story of her mother's affection, as, out of the fullness of her heart, the eyes spoke. What a wealth of suggestion the remark of the child contains. The look of affection, often more loud than spoken word, will stay by the child all day. The approving smile will encourage and hearten as truly as the frown will dispirit and discourage. Words of flattery are often insincere, but the eyes speak the true meaning of the heart, and when the soul is aglow with Divine love, one kindly glance, one approving smile, will often go farther in stimulating some of the Father's little ones than anything else. Try the contagion of a smile. Let the eyes speak hopeful, encouraging words.

The Value of Being Punctual

What a lesson in punctuality do the workings of the universe teach. Every movement of the heavenly bodies enforces it. For thousands upon thousands of years the sun, moon, and stars move on in never changing regularity. What calamity would result from the failure of any of them to be on time. The Creator sets before all who have eyes to see, this wonderful object lesson illustrating the value and importance of being punctual.

As in the great inter-related world above us, so in the social world around us. Each member of the stellar host has its own place to fill and the proper filling of it relates to the rest. In human life and intercourse, no individual is solitary and alone. Each life is related, and by its operations others are affected for weal or woe. No matter how humble our circumstances, how limited our orbit, or how feeble our powers, we affect not only ourselves but our fellows.

In doing so profitably, few habits are more desirable than punctuality. We cannot afford to be tardy, for our lateness may cause discomfort and loss to our associates. To be on-time must be the practice of each and every day. The boy at school, the clerk in the office, the teacher before the class, the choir in the gallery, the preacher in the pulpit, the chairman in the meeting,—in the performance of all their functions, in the discharge of all their duties,—everybody, everywhere should be punctual.

The sorry excuse "I hadn't time," is a poor subterfuge and leads to self-delusion. Not lack of time, but lack of order, system, plan, is to blame. Method in the use of time will en-

"God gives every bird its food, but does not throw it into the nest."