



A Double Quartette of Leaders

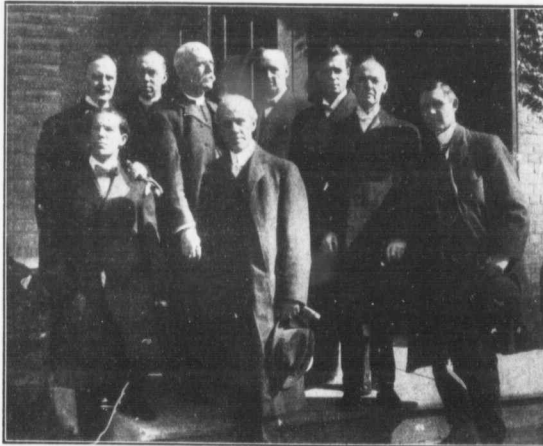
The accompanying picture is one of quite a number taken by the Editor during the seasons of the Ecumenical Council. Eight of the gentlemen in it are representative official leaders in the connexional Sunday School and Young People's work in England and America.

The first person on the rear line, counting from the left, is the able editor of the Northwestern Christian Advocate, Rev. Dr. C. M. Stuart, recently elected President of the Garrett Biblical Institute. Next to him is Prof. Rev. W. J. Moulton, M.A., of Headingley College, Leeds, England, whose splendid Fernly lectures "The Witness of Israel," should be diligently studied by all thoughtful young Bible readers. Standing by Prof. Moulton is Rev. W. B. FitzGerald, General Secretary of the Wesley Guild of English Wesleyan Methodism, and editor of "The Guild," the monthly

for our next issue you will learn of a splendid plan that these men have devised to inspire world-wide young Methodism with holy zeal and enterprise for still greater achievement in the cause of God.

A Prayer League

The Convention of the Chatham District recently held at Dresden, recommended the formation of a prayer circle in every League under the direction of the First Vice-President. The plan meets with our most hearty and unqualified approval. Let the First Vice pray about it, plan for it, and continually remind the members of it. It is simple. Unite all who will agree, in a circle or league of daily prayer—prayer for the League, its officers, members, committees, work, prayer for outsiders, that they may be converted; prayer for power to reach and



A DOUBLE QUARTETTE OF LEADERS.

magazine of the societies over which he exercises oversight. Our own Rev. Dr. Crews will be readily recognized as he stands next in line, with hat in hand. Adjoining him is Rev. Dr. E. M. Randall, General Secretary of the Epworth League of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

In front, on the left, is Rev. Dr. E. C. E. Dorion, Assistant Editor of "The Epworth Herald." At his left, with Mr. FitzGerald's right hand close to his side, is Rev. Dr. David G. Downey, the chief officer of the Sunday Schools of the Methodist Episcopal Church. At the right of the group with hat in hand will be recognized our own Mr. Farewell, Field Secretary for the Central Conferences of Canadian Methodism. The gentleman between Mr. Farewell and Dr. Randall is Rev. D. A. Moir, of Hamilton.

Our readers will be pleased to see this "double quartette" as we have termed them,—each one a leader of thousands of Methodist youth—and if you watch

save them; prayer for personal fitness and preparation for doing God's work as His witness. Let this band of agreeing members meet occasionally for united prayer, and from the help obtained in private intercourse with God and fraternal fellowship with one another, let each go forth to labor, as never before, for the salvation of souls, the culture of lives, the purification of the community, the evangelization of the world.

In this connection we call attention to the following paragraphs from the October issue of "The Guild," in which the editor, Rev. W. B. FitzGerald, says,—

"Our supreme need, as a Church, is prayer. Prayer is like a flowing tide, making all things possible. We remember an old harbour we were once familiar with. When the sea was out it was a waste of mud. The fishing boats and coasters lay with slack cables and at all angles, while the sailors flung themselves on their backs and smoked or

slept. At low water the whole quay seemed asleep; no life, no activity anywhere. But when the sea came in the mudbanks disappeared, and, as the blue water rose higher and higher, the ships seemed to lift themselves up and stretch themselves, and their masts swayed lightly against the sky. The quay and the decks bustled with energy, hawsers were loosed, brown sails went up, and away the vessels moved, down the long avenue of water between the piers, out to the open sea.

"It is low tide just now with the Church; low tide with some, but not all, of our Guilds. The ever ready critic calls attention to the mud, and those who are awake to listen to him are conscious of a distressing helplessness. Oh! that we might feel the lifting power of a great tide of prayer, banishing our fears, stirring us with a new hope, making even the most fearful reach out in thought towards the broad seas of enterprise."

"Prayer! That is a power within our reach. Great preachers must be born or trained. Great organizers, fertile as their resources may be, are far to seek. But here and now, day in, day out, rich and poor, young and old, all of us may pray.

"Every reader of these words may become a power-centre; for, depend upon it, the spiritual influence of prayer cannot be restrained. It will spread from soul to soul, and from church to church, until thousands are praying and working, where at the first there were only units.

"Many of our comrades are already alive to the value of prayer. Many have yet to learn the true joyousness of manly, womanly prayer. Young Methodism will never rise to its full strength until we have learned the secret of power on our knees."

The Editor will be glad to hear from any of our Leaguers who think well of the plan proposed, and our Chatham District friends will be thankful and happy if their recommendation outgrows their own District and encompasses the whole connexion.

Concerning District Leagues

The Epworth League of our Church is supposed to be under the direction and control of two distinct organizations which exist to make effective the general policies of the main controlling Board appointed by the General Conference. These two organizations are the Conference and District Leagues. It is with the latter that these suggestions have directly to do.

Every District having a number of Leagues on the circuits composing it, is supposed to unite in a District League, as provided in the disciplinary constitution. In reviewing the operations or seeking to find explanation for the inactivity of these District Leagues, the General Secretary has had certain conclusions forced upon him by the stern logic of the facts he has had to face. This article is the result as far as this paper is concerned.

There appear to be three general groups of District Leagues that may be briefly designated thus: those with whose record during the year a fair-minded critic ought to be satisfied; those with which we can be at best unsatisfied; and those that give ample ground for being righteously dissatisfied. In which group your District belongs must be left to you to decide, the General Secretary declining to make inventory in the case.

But it will be well for the District officers, the Presidents particularly, to look at their work from the standpoint of the General Board, and if they do so and are honest with themselves, they will find little difficulty in correctly placing themselves in one or another of the above three main divisions or classes.