

while we would not in any degree apologize for the manifest weaknesses of the Church of the present, we rejoice in the thousands of young lives as truly consecrated to God as were their fathers and mothers, and if the Church with the Epworth League is no better, we wonder what it would have been *without* it. That side of the question some of our good critics seem inclined to ignore.

We need the preaching service, we need the teaching service, and we need with at least equal force the training service, for which the Epworth League in Methodism has consistently stood during the quarter-century past, and for which we doubt not it will stand with increasing facilities for success in the quarter-century to come.

Not for jubilation or congratulation only is our Silver Jubilee celebrated, but for conference and prayerful fellowship in the study of even greater and more effective methods of work for the future. The Silver Jubilee of the Epworth League will commemorate a great fact in Canadian Methodism, but it should and doubtless will mean also a new start for our youth, that the generation to come may arise in increased might for effective service for the King.

In his greetings to the Cleveland District League, which held a memorable commemorative service in the Epworth Memorial Church, Cleveland, on Sunday, May 10th, the writer said to them, what now he says to all, and especially to the Canadian Leagues under his care, "Congratulations and best wishes. The occasion is opportune for both. The Epworth League has vindicated the wisdom of its founders by the successes of the quarter-century past. Hence our congratulations. But it must justify its continued existence by still greater works in the days to come. Hence our best wishes. Looking backward, we cry, 'Ebenezer!' looking ahead, 'Immanuel!'"

By the united efforts of all local leaders, and under the supreme guidance of Almighty God, the present members of the general staff look for greater works in the days to come than ever the past has achieved, and for the power whereby these shall be performed let us all most fervently pray.

Because we are convinced that the popular use of the Commemorative Silver Jubilee Service in all our Leagues and congregations on October 25th and 26th will tend to an increase of this power we commend the service to all, and shall be pleased to supply it as ordered.

Why Starve?

This is the question we feel like propounding to not a few Epworth Leagues. The fact is borne in on our mind with increasing force that many, far too many, of our Leagues are not growing because they are not well nourished or sufficiently fed. An Epworth League, like an individual, will live by that on which it feeds. Food appropriate and sufficient cannot be provided without expense. Every father seeking to provide for his family of growing children knows this. Some Epworth Leagues seem to pride themselves on the triflingly small sum they expend on their maintenance, and apparently seek to exist on the minimum of cost. And it is only an existence they eke out, after all. We are candidly of the opinion that the outlay of a few dollars on the local work regularly would be a boon to the average Epworth League. The idea seems to prevail, too, that the League lives to raise money for missions. The more money it raises the larger the success attributed to it. This is a mistake. We have known Leagues weaken and die simply because they counted success by the measure of their money-raising schemes. Money is an expression of life if it is anything of value, and without life in the League the power to raise money will soon decline. Get more life in your League if you would raise more money for missions or anything else. And to develop your life you must spend some money on yourselves. Buy books, subscribe for a liberal club order to this paper, spend a few dollars in room decorations—in short, do not be so frugal that you starve yourselves as a League because of insufficient nourishment. Right now, see that

your League spends at least \$1 in the purchase of fifty Silver Jubilee Programmes. Then use them to boom your League, support the General Board in its connexional work, build up your life from within, and money will come. We want the Leagues to increase their contributions to all good objects, but we are convinced that without larger life there will be a decrease rather than an increase in missionary money and all other funds.

The Point of View

An interesting illustration of the old phrase, "It makes all the difference how you look at things," came to our notice very recently. In our last issue we made some references to the war and the attitude we as Canadians should take towards it. One reader, who writes from some place unnamed, says of our paragraphs, "Like a multitude of articles in the newspapers they misrepresent the opinions of thoughtful citizens regarding honor, righteousness, and patriotism." He also says, "For the Canadian militiaman the military business is a sport, purely selfish, without any thought of patriotism." It is his opinion also that "when he volunteers for service he does not calculate on reaching the scene of battle." And so on for three pages this correspondent proceeds to state his viewpoint, and concludes his indictment with the statement that "the silly Canadians to whom sporting business is the most worthy pursuit they can be engaged in glory in their shame, and set at naught all the teachings of Christianity." When we read this letter we felt like writing a peaceable note to the sender, but as no post-office address was appended we concluded not to go on what might be a "wild goose chase" after the writer. That his viewpoint is not shared by many of our readers we have good reason to believe, for this sentence from another letter, written by a most peaceably dispositioned and amiable brother minister, expresses the sentiment we have heard from others. He writes: "Congratulations on that splendid editorial re the war in this month's ERA." Comment is unnecessary. We are not disposed to defend the position taken in our September articles even if we thought such a course called for by the "thoughtful citizens" among our readers. This is a free country, and every man has a right to his own opinion. Our own viewpoint is not that we are to keep the peace at any price, but that as far as lieth in us we are to live peaceably with all men. As long as the other fellow is of similar mind there will be no quarrel, but when he is bound to fight whether or no—well, the sooner he is castigated the better. That is our viewpoint.

The Junior Topics

On another page will be found the Junior topic propositions as usual. With November we commence a new six months' term. The topics were prepared for six months only. The new cards are ready at the Book Room. After making provision for the regular monthly missionary subject, there has been chosen a series of Old Testament stories that should be very popular. The aim is to give the Juniors some insight into the wonderful stories of the men through whom this world has been so wondrously shaped religiously. These studies must necessarily be but elementary in character and simple in treatment. To get the facts of the Bible into their minds and at the same time illustrate some of the Scripture's abiding principles of conduct clearly to them is no small service to tender boys and girls. This is just what these topics are intended to do. We call attention to them so that any of our pastors, class leaders, band workers, club presidents, or other similar officers in charge of any phase of Junior work where such topic studies are used may profit by these. In connection with the list published by the Book Room in regular card form there will be given the titles and prices of a number of illuminative books dealing more thoroughly with the characters studied. Such books as these should