

Some Thoughts for the Young on "Doing One's Best."

BY REV. MARCUS SCOTT, D.D., CAMPBELLFORD.

"WHEN I was a little boy," said a well-known gentleman once to a friend of his, "I paid a visit to my grandfather. He was an aged man, and wore a black velvet cap and knee-breeches with large silver buckles at the knees. When I went to say good-bye to him he took me between his knees, kissed me fondly, and, laying his hand on my head, he kindly said, 'My dear boy, I have one thing specially to say to you; will you try and remember it?' I looked at him in the face and said, 'I will, grandpa.' 'Well,' said he, 'it is this, whatever you do, *always do the best you can.*' This was my grandfather's legacy to me. It was worth more to me than thousands of gold and silver. I never forgot his words, and have always tried to act on them." Apart from doing one's best there is no road to success. No one ever succeeded without effort. The harder the task let there be more determination and honest effort to succeed. Difficulties vanish before the young man who does his very best. Demosthenes did that and he overcame natural defects and became the first of orators. When Lord Brougham left Oxford with his reputation yet to make, he said, "Now for the Lord Chancellorship of England." He did his very best and soon he attained the position he wanted. Lord Clive went to India unknown and penniless at the age of eighteen. At that time Britain did not own six acres in all India. Young Clive did his best and he won for his country a land peopled by 200,000,000 inhabitants. Wellington assigned a task of some difficulty to a rather conceited officer at Waterloo. The officer complained and asked how he could carry out his commander's instructions. "By looking ahead and doing your best," said England's hero. What a hard task Joseph had in Egypt, Moses in the wilderness, and Daniel in Babylon! How did these faithful servants of God succeed? By putting their trust firmly in God and doing their very best. Some one has lately called Edison the greatest living man on this continent. He has patented hundreds of designs and has added millions of dollars to the wealth of his country. How has he done all this? Simply by doing his best. Some time ago one of his designs was like to be a failure for want of a certain mechanical contrivance which everyone told him was impossible. "It must not be impossible," said Edison, and after months of experiments and adjustments he solved the problem. Wherever God in His providence has placed us, we may be sure He has work for us all to do. We have our own characters to form, tempers to curb, besetting sins to avoid and temptations to resist. We have duties to discharge to ourselves, to others, and to God. In all our relationships of life and in the different spheres where God has placed us, let us all do our very best.

Never delay
To do the duty which the moment brings,
Whether it be in great or smaller things,
Never delay.

Act promptly,
In every path of life strive to excel;
Each day begin, and each day ending, well,
Act promptly.

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THE report of the annual meeting of the North American Life Assurance Company is most satisfactory reading for Canadians. The sound financial position of all Canadian monetary concerns has been frequently commented upon by British and United States papers, and always in words of high praise and commendation. The manner in which Canada has passed through the recent finan-

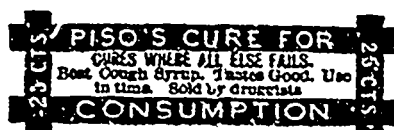
cial crisis has won the admiration of the commercial world, and to the integrity and ability displayed in the management of such concerns as the North American Life Assurance Company is due this high standing of Canadian finance, and its ability to pass successfully through such periods of depression as those now happily passing away. The annual report of the Company must impress our readers still more with the soundness of the principles on which the Company is founded and the ability of its management.

The whole administration of its affairs would seem to indicate the desire to make the Company's financial position unquestioned and unsurpassed, and at the same time to afford its policy-holders a remunerative return for their investments. A company that is able to accomplish these two supreme results is truly one which is filling most completely the functions which a life insurance company should perform. The record shows that 1893 was the North American's most successful year. It conducted a larger business and added a larger amount to its reserve and surplus funds than in any previous year, while the new business was secured at a relatively less cost than heretofore. The assets now foot up over \$1,700,000, while the net surplus for the security of the policy-holders, over and above the reserve fund of \$1,319,510, stands at the sum of \$297,062. The handsome increase in the latter fund will be especially interesting to the large number insured on the Company's investment plan of insurance, as also the information combined in the report of the Company's consulting actuary, who, in allocating the profits for 1894 to maturing investment policies, remarked that the results are in excess of the figures in the Company's tables in the hands of its agents. The important remarks of President Blaikie should be read by everyone interested in the subject of life insurance, as well as those of Vice-President Hon. G. W. Allan, and the other speakers. The strong financial position to which the North American Life has attained is in a large measure due to the skill and ability which have been displayed in the direction of its affairs by its managing director, William McCabe, F.I.A., whose reputation stands high in the profession in Canada and elsewhere, who has been ably assisted by the Company's energetic secretary, L. Goldman, A.I.A.

A Y. P. S. C. E. has been organized in the Presbyterian church, Alberton, Ont. The pastor, Rev. Wm. M. Reid, is honorary president; president, Mr. O. H. Stuart; vice-president, Miss M. Burnside; recording secretary, Mr. John Smith; corresponding secretary, Mr. James McIlwrick; treasurer, Miss Jennie Sharp. The annual tea meeting was held in the church at Onandaga on the 21st ult. Rev. William M. Reid, the pastor, presided and in his opening address gave some characteristic examples of Scottish life. Mr. J. Bruce Walker late of Glasgow, Scotland, spoke on the same lines. Addresses were also given in a very stirring and impressive way by Revs. C. H. Emerson and R. T. Railton, Onandaga, and Rev. Mr. Foote, Cainsville, and Mr. A. L. Baird, L.L.B. Songs and recitations were well provided by Mr. J. Fax and party from Brantford. The meeting was the most orderly and enjoyable we have had here for many years. The following evening the children attending the Sabbath school had a most successful entertainment. The pastor presided.

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Forms of tender, containing full particulars, may be had by applying to the undersigned, or to the Assistant Indian Commissioner at Regina, or to the Indian Office, Winnipeg. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

This advertisement is not to be inserted by any newspaper without the authority of the Queen's Printer, and no claim for payment by any newspaper not having had such authority will be admitted.

HAYTER REED,
Deputy of the Superintendent-General
of Indian Affairs.

Department of Indian Affairs,
Ottawa, January, 1894.