

Young People's Work. FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.

C. E. Prayer-Meeting Topics.

May 7—True Wisdom: How to obtain it. Prov. iii. 13-18; Jas. i. 5, 6.

In the preceding lesson we were impressed with the great responsibility that rests upon each of us, as God has endowed us with faculties so wonderful and has given a revelation so beautifully adapted to our mental and moral nature. It was ours to choose folly or wisdom. If we accept the latter we should strive to obtain the highest wisdom—true wisdom!

I. What is its value?

Let us call up him who was given wisdom and who was designated the "wisest man," to answer the question: "Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."

"For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver and the gain thereof than fine gold."

"She is more precious than rubies, and none thou canst desire are to be compared unto her."

"Length of days is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor."

"Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace."

Since, then, wisdom is of such great value, we should all strive to obtain it.

"A wisest than Solomon is here."—Luke vi. 31. We "are complete in Him." Christ is the great fountain of true wisdom.

II. How to obtain it.

1. Ask Him in prayer. "If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God that giveth all things liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him."—Jas. i. 5.

2. Ask in faith.

True wisdom is to know God as He is revealed in His Word and manifested in His Son Jesus Christ, and to believe in Him and obey His commandments.

Let us keep clearly in mind the distinction between true wisdom, which leads us into Christ, and to abide in Him, and worldly wisdom which leads out of and away from Christ.

"Heavenly wisdom in the Tree of Life." They that feast on wisdom will prolong life, find eternal life and be cured of every earthly ill. Its "leaves are for the healing of the nations."

"He who is without wisdom walks in a troubled land where dangers lurk and where pitfalls abound; but he who chooses wisdom for a companion, a mighty Deliverer who saves in six troubles and in the seventh will not forsake him."

May 14.—Winning Souls.—Prov. xi. 30; 1 Cor. ix. 19-23.

Members of the C. E., for what are you working? Why did you become a member of the C. E.? Was it not that you might live a better, nobler life yourself and then by example and work win souls for Christ?

Dr. Lyman Beecher said the greatest of all things is leading guilty and polluted souls to the Saviour.

He that winneth souls is wise.

1. Because of the inestimable value of the soul. One soul outweighs all inanimate creation.

"Knowest thou the importance of a soul immortal? Behold the midnight glory: worlds on worlds; Amazing pomp; redouble this amazement; Ten thousand add, and twice ten thousand more, Then weigh the whole: one soul outweighs them all."

2. Because it is obeying commands of Christ.

"He came to seek and save that which was lost."

His blood was shed that our sin-stained garments might be made white

in the blood of the Lamb. The world is to be won for Christ. The Gospel is God's power for the conversion of the world. We are to live it, to go and proclaim it to the world. "Let your light so shine."

3. Because of the great reward. It fills our souls with joy unspeakable to win souls for our Lord. "They that win many to righteousness shall shine as the stars for ever and ever."—Dan. xii. 3, also Jas. v. 20.

How can we win souls?

1. Be diligent students of God's word.

2. Live Christianity. "Living epistles."

3. Be in earnest.

The fields are all ripening, and far and wide the world now is waiting the harvest-tide; But reapers are few and the work is great, And much will be lost should the harvest wait.

The Y. P. S. C. E., of Church of Christ, Guelph, acted wisely in securing Bro. Jackson, of Welland, to lecture for them on India. The evening of the lecture, April 20, was one of the most disagreeable known in years, but owing to the earnest efforts of the C. E., quite a house greeted the speaker, something over \$10 being taken in at the door. The speaker is familiar with his subject, having spent over ten years in that land as a missionary. The lecture is entertaining and instructive and all were much pleased with it. All live C. E.'s would do well to secure the services of Bro. Jackson.

GEO. FOWLER.

Children's Work.

Mrs. Jas. Lediard, Supt., Owen Sound, Ont., to whom communications for this department should be addressed.

DEAR MRS. LEDIARD: You will no doubt be wondering why you have not heard from our Warton Band of Cheerful Givers before this. But although we have neglected sending in our report before, it is not that we are growing less interested in mission work. We still hold our meetings every two weeks and have a splendid attendance, also a goodly number of boys, which is very encouraging.

The members of the Band, with the help of the young folk of the church, gave an Easter cantata on Good Friday evening in the meeting house, which was heartily enjoyed by all present. Our house was nicely filled and we cleared \$12.50, which I have sent to our treasurer, Miss Jennie Fleming, on behalf of the Band. Yours sincerely, HATTIE TROUT, President.

"At the Bottom of the Sea!"

BY DR. E. P. THWING.

"Where would you have been, if I had not met you?" asked a lady of a bright young lad.

"At the bottom of the sea!" was the prompt reply.

Both the lady and the lad spoke in Cantonese. The one spoke reprovingly; the other answered in a low, serious tone, that showed shame for having grieved the heart of one to whom he owed his life.

Last May two missionaries were passing near the bank of the river that flowed by the house where I am now writing, when they saw a man and woman about to drown a lad of thirteen. On inquiry they found that he was a bad boy, following in the steps of his father in dishonest gambling habits. His ugly temper grew more intolerable under cruelty; and so, as in other cases, this father and grandmother were to put him out of the way.

It was not unknown to the neighbors. They would not object, nor would anybody else. When a parent is murdered by a son or daughter, crucifixion or decapitation is the punishment. Christmas week, a woman was bound to the cross and sliced to death in this city, for parricide. But the "stubborn and rebellious son," as in Deuteronomy xxi, may be stoned or drowned without consulting "the elders of his city."

To the protests of the missionaries the father replied, "Do you want him?"

"Oh, no! We cannot take him,"

The stripped and pinioned lad must therefore be cast into the river, like a dog, to drown.

These American ladies begged for two days' respite. It was granted. The boy was then brought to them. No longer delay would be granted. If they did not take him, he must die at once. There was no alternative. Papers were drawn, and he became theirs. He soon verified the description given. In his fits of ugliness he acted like a maddened animal. He had been used to flogging, having been tied up by the thumbs.

One day, when shut alone, he screamed so loud the cook took the liberty to insert a gag. Compulsory silence led to willing submission. He began to improve, and to respond to loving approaches. He now goes to church and Sunday school, is quick to learn in his daily studies, and bright and capable in household duties. The better nature strengthens as the old one is suppressed. Surrounded by Christian influences, he bids fair to become a useful, good man. Now and then a tempest comes, but with diminished violence, and sooner followed by calm.

Then, as in the response just quoted, the frankness of the lad is seen. He feels that he owes his life to those who rescued him at the last moment, and is trying to serve them faithfully. He also feels kindly towards those brutal kinsmen from whom he was taken! Recent improvements on the building where he lives necessitated the hewing of large timbers. He wished to write to his father, asking him to come and get the chips for fuel. These are hopeful signs. We who know him believe that God may yet make him a chosen vessel. He was "at the bottom of the sea" of heathenism, and can say of God, as did David, "He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of great waters. He delivered me from . . . them that hated me."

Do missions pay? Yea, verily, — every way. And are not gentleness and love more potent factors in the work of drawing reluctant souls, everywhere, to a better life, than are more drastic methods?—Sunday School Times. Canton, China. J. E. L.

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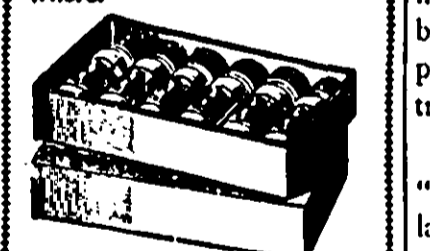
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1. Anyone now a paid up subscriber, who wishes to present a friend or neighbor with the EVANGELIST for one year, may do so by sending us 50c.

2. Should our agents or other friends, who are soliciting subscriptions, find any brethren or sisters who are anxious to have the EVANGELIST, but not able to pay for it, if the names and addresses of such persons are sent to us, we shall put them on our complimentary list, and give them the paper one year for nothing.

3. By the kindness of J. M. Warner, proprietor of the Hamilton Carpet Sweeper Manufacturing House, we are able to offer to anyone sending ten new yearly subscriptions to the EVANGELIST a Grand Rapids Carpet Sweeper, the retail price of which is \$3.50. This offer will hold good throughout the year.

4. We have great pleasure in making the following offer to all subscribers to the EVANGELIST, old and new: For \$1.25 we shall give the EVANGELIST for one year, and a copy of "On the Rock; or Truth Stranger than Fiction." "On the Rock" until recently was only issued in cloth binding, and sold for \$1.50. The edition we offer is bound in paper—good, tough paper, though—and sells for 40 cents a single copy. "On the Rock" is one of the most popular and most useful books ever written by a Disciple. This is an opportunity to procure it for a trifle.

5. We are very anxious that "On the Rock" should have a large circulation in Canada this year. It is admirably adapted to the religious situation in this country at the present juncture. We should like to place a copy of it in every home the EVANGELIST visits, and in every family in the brotherhood in our land, and we are confident that it would be of great benefit to the cause of Christ were it widely distributed among our religious neighbors. To further such distribution we make this offer: If any paid-up subscriber will send us 50 cts. with the name and address of some person, not a Disciple, we shall send that person the EVANGELIST for three months, and a copy of "On the Rock."

GEORGE MUNRO, 85 Wellington St. North, HAMILTON, ONTARIO.