

a matter-of-fact way. With some of us the tide of youthful ardor has somewhat subsided. A great deal of the poetry and romance of youthful days have gone out of our lives, and that rainlow glamor with which the youthful imagination invests almost everything it beholds is being dissipated. Let the surplus energy and fiery enthusiasm of youth be guided by the mature experience and wise counsel of those of riper years, and where such is the case the Church which has within its pale an Epworth League is doing more for God and the community than, all things being equal, the one which has no such Society in its midst.

Shall I tell you one of the many facts or features of the Epworth League, as I find it in Canada, which impresses me the most? It is this. There is one idea which seems to be burning itself into the souls of the leaders of our young people, and that is the one which so deeply impressed itself upon the mind of your great Webster—the thought of their responsibility to God. One of our young leaguers expressed that thought thus: He said, "Friends, I feel that if there is a soul however fallen that I can lift up and will not lift up; if there is a soul I can bless and will not bless; if there is a soul I can save and will not save, then that is personal proof to me that I myself am not yet fully blessed and I am not yet fully saved." When I heard it I said, let that thought of personal responsibility of individual influence capture the heart and mind of every leaguer, and all America will be won for Christ before the present generation has gone.

Some time ago an article appeared in one of our papers condemning such conventions as we have to-day because of the social waste implied; the waste of money and the waste of energy. We were told that there was a tremendous leakage of energy going on in connection with such popular movements. It proceeded to declare that the same thing could be said about a great deal of our missionary work. Much money has been mispent and many of our missionaries had been a failure. Now, sir, the man that wrote that was as blind as a bat or a mole to the higher aspects of such a movement as this. Nothing consecrated to God ever dies; no effort like this can prove fruitless; nothing that has in it the soul of goodness can perish. We find the law of conservation of energy in the spiritual as in the material universe. No true artist ever swept the strings of poetry away. The harper and the harp may die, but the song once sung pulsates forever. No true artist ever dies, the marble may crumble, the pillar may totter, the dome collapse, and the light fade from the canvas, but the idea thus conceived and imagined in color or imprisoned in marble, entering the world's heart becomes a live force which shall operate when this old planet reels in her orbit and when our present *cosmos* has again become primeval chaos. And so the great push forward which this mighty gathering must communicate to Methodism will surely more than compensate us for all the money paid and energy expended. Yes, it pays any Church to have in operation an Epworth League, and it pays to have such a convention as

this. For I believe there are fires about to be kindled here that shall never go out.

And not only is this movement with us in Canada helping the work at home, but it is helping the work abroad. The most of Epworth Leagues in Canada are organizing themselves for work along missionary lines. Scarcely a District of our Central Conferences that does not support in whole or part a missionary on the Indian or Foreign Field. And for the most part it is from the ranks of the leaguers that we are getting our missionaries for China and Japan. Our young people are becoming possessed with the missionary conscience. And, sir, I have observed that the nearer our young

is the Waterloo of the moral universe. The issues of the present conflict will affect all coming ages and move all worlds. This is no time for dilly-dallying; no time for languid effort, or luxurious ease, or ostentatious parade. Hark! the bugle calls to battle. Let every soldier in the ranks of God's army unsheath the weapon of His spiritual warfare, and strike for God and victory. Oh, that our great Captain would breathe upon us from on high the spirit of an all-conquering enthusiasm, something that would enable us to sweep through the serried ranks of darkness, as the British did at Tel-el-Kebir, capturing every gate of hell and compelling every citadel of the foe to surrender.



COURT OF THE PALACE HOTEL, SAN FRANCISCO.

Where the Noon-day Prayer-meetings were held.

people get to Christ and the Cross, the more are they possessed with that missionary idea and impulse of which He was the perfect embodiment.

And now, sir, let me remind every Epworth Leaguer present, we have come here to get more fuel and more fire. We live in an age of intense activity, the very air seems to palpitate with excitement. Everything seems to be on the lightning rush and thunder roll. The pendulum of existence oscillates more violently than ever, and old Father Time is so hardly pressed that he has scarcely an opportunity to wipe the perspiration from his brow. The conflict between the two great forces of light and darkness was never more deadly than now. The present century echoes to shrieks of defeat and shouts of victory as never before. This is the Gettysburg age. Our planet

The Methodism of the Twentieth Century.

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Methodism is a child of the streets, a Church for the masses. She does not need a millionaire to give her a million dollars to build "People's Churches," she is already the "People's Church." God put His own hands upon her head in ordination and crowned her with evangelistic fire and spiritual fervor, endowed her with a heart palpitating with love for the whole world and sent her forth. And this Church, providential in the niche she occupies in history, providential in the growth of her doctrines and polity, if she will still follow her providential leadings and hold her divine fire has a mission that will send her joy.