

OUR CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOURERS.

BY REV. DR. DICKSON, GALT.

THE Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour has been spreading through our Church as a fire spreads over a prairie; and to-day there are over one thousand Presbyterian Christian Endeavour Societies from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The membership of these Societies makes up a host of bright, joyous, hopeful, active, young men and maidens, whose presence and influence ought to be distinctly felt in the Church, in every part of its work; giving strength and gladness and aggressive power, deepening its heart, brightening its mind, invigorating its life, and widening its influence.

The young life and spirit are of vast consequence in a family and in a State, and it ought not to be of less consequence in the Church. The Endeavour Society offers it a fitting channel of manifestation. It is at once a school and a workshop. It teaches and it calls into service. It grades its work to the capacities of the individual, recognizing differences of gifts, and at the same time discovering abilities for special kinds of service. In a quiet inoffensive way it presents to every one a field of usefulness, where they may begin in humble and lowly fashion to do something of a public character as Christians.

The Endeavour meeting is the first scene of service. There, an acquaintance is made with one's own voice, one's own talents, one's own fitness for some kind of work, and one's own temptations—the sins which do so easily beset one. Such discoveries are of immense importance to one beginning a life for Christ. There, every time a true Endeavour meeting is held, the Word of God distils like the dew or falls like the rain upon the mind and the heart, sinking into them steadily, and almost unobserved, and filling them with seed that shall spring up anon, and bless all the nature, and send the individual as a force into the field of life. There, too, is given to every man his work.

HOW IS THE ENDEAVOURER'S LIFE TO BE FELT WITHIN THE CHURCH.

First, by the Christly Spirit he shows. By the terms of the pledge he is brought face to face with the Lord, and led to trust in Him alone. All his action as an Endeavourer springs from the will of Christ. The Lord is acknowledged as presiding over his life, and controlling it. He is made central in it. Wherever the pledge obligation becomes a reality, a spirit of love and sympathy and devotion springs up. There is delight in obeying Christ and doing what He enjoins.

Second, by regular attendance on ordinances. He is always in his place upholding the hands, and cheering the heart, of his minister. He can be trusted in this respect. He is a pillar in the Church on whom one can rely. He is not found, like a sere leaf driven by the wind, in this corner

to-day and in the other to-morrow, and next day somewhere else; and always where he ought not to be. He is planted in God's House. And so, the Sabbath service and the mid-week prayer-meeting are greatly helped by him. By being in his place, he encourages others to be in theirs. One who is irregular in his attendance does far more harm than he ever knows. He loosens the cords that bind men so blessedly to God's House.

Every Christian Endeavourer will make a point of being in his place on the Lord's Day, and also at the weekly prayer-meeting. Not to attend to this, is to do much to bring reproach upon the Society and to cast contempt upon the pledge. In scores of places the Endeavour Society has doubled and trebled the attendance at the prayer-meeting, and that is an exceedingly pleasant way of making itself felt in the work of the Church. Everyone faithful in these throws his influence into the scale of the Church's prosperity, and every one who does not, does the opposite. Let our Endeavourers note this well!

Third, by visiting the sick and doing what he can for the Sunday School. These come under Committee work, where the Society drills its members. Yet it is an act highly appreciated when the Flower Committee carry their lovely, fragrant token of remembrance to the sick chamber. It is an act that speaks louder than words, and that tells of a thoughtful and gracious spirit. The kind enquiry after the children and whether they go to Sunday School never fails to do good. Sometimes the Sunday School Committee may provide garments for children who cannot go to school because they are in straitened circumstances. Classes may be brought in by Endeavour workers, and added, as Moody in his early life added them, to the Sunday School.

Fourth, by giving liberally to Missions abroad and work at home. It is an excellent thing to cultivate this grace from the very first. Get knowledge of our Home Work and of our Foreign Fields and their need and giving will not only be intelligent, but joyous—a real Spiritual act. This knowledge and this action will liberalize the nature and bless it beyond all thought.

Dr. Robertson in the last number of the RECORD gave some figures of losses sustained by our Home Missionaries, which should not only arrest the attention, but draw the hearts of our young people to men who are working under such disadvantages. The salary in the North West is \$750.00; and Dr. Robertson's statement is: "One minister paid house rent and supported a family on \$705, another on \$468, another \$607, another \$542, another \$570, and another \$420. The rest of the salary lost." And this too where the purchasing power of money is much less than in any other Province of the Dominion. Let us help our Home Work, heartily, while we do not neglect any other.