

the most experienced professors and the oldest teachers, who, after spending their strength and time habitually in coaxing, driving, leading, and in manifold ways urging, students in school and college to the preparation of their tasks, are delighted and surprised at finding here at Chautauqua hundreds, even thousands, who are unspeakably anxious and eager to receive intellectual stimulation, instruction, and training. A distinguished teacher remarked to me while there that he had more pleasure and inspiration in delivering his lectures to the students in the Teachers' Retreat at Chautauqua than in any other work of his busy life. He found more alertness, more sympathy, more anxiety to learn, a higher appreciation of the work of teaching, and a loftier aim, than in the average college of the country. The efficient organization impressed me profoundly. Dr. Vincent has exhibited his splendid generalship in the selection of his assistants and co-workers as much as in other branches of his work.

Another fact which is worth noting is the growth of the C. L. S. C. From ocean to ocean circles abound. More than fifty thousand readers during the past year have been pursuing its course of instruction. Many of these local organizations have lectures, readings, conversations, recitations, etc., carried on by the best talent in the community. College professors of skill and experience and professional men in other lines have been utilized in this work, and in multitudes of cases towns and cities have been quickened as never before with the stirrings of a new intellectual life by the work of the organization. One of the brightest men I met during my visit remarked that, after studying this movement two or three years, he was convinced that it was the salt which would preserve American life from intellectual stagnation.

The next step that is projected is a magazine for young people, called *The Youth's C. L. S. C.* It is hoped to enlist hundreds of thousands of the young folks of the land in this movement, which may possibly, with proper management, be made even more successful than the parent organization.

To my mind, in short, this whole enterprise, with all its collateral lines of labor and influence, is the most hopeful, inspiring, and amazing which our generation has produced. To animate and lift up tens of thousands of people, young and old, into a higher intellectual life, to give them a broader outlook, to furnish them with the benign and exquisite joys which come from the pursuit and the acquisition of knowledge, to furnish them with a love for wisdom and with appreciation of the best sort of literature, to inspire them to attain mental discipline and training, to send currents of helpful and ennobling influences down the ages—this is a part of the work of Dr. Vincent and his compeers at Chautauqua. The critics who have been disposed to sneer at this movement as "superficial," "sensational," and "fanciful," are welcome to their sneers. They may lift their eye-glasses in astonishment and their

noses in derision if they choose. Meanwhile Dr. Vincent is doing what all the colleges in the land never did before: He has organized a popular movement in behalf of education which has touched the hearts of the population, which has brightened with new joys many a sorrowing home, which has lifted out of the common rut of life multitudes of human souls, which has enlisted the aid of hundreds of great educators through the land, which, without question, will reach and mould and stir a million of minds in America alone within the next five years, and which promises to grow until other continents shall be leavened and quickened and inspired by it.

C. L. S. C. Testimony.

THE following are testimonies of C. L. S. C. students:—

"I WANT to say for the encouragement of any who urge objections to the C. L. S. C. course, that I took it up to please my wife, but 'twas but a short time before I was earnestly reading and studying to please myself. It seemed quite an undertaking, but, though we are forty years old, and have four children, we have found time to keep abreast of the work as carried on by the Circle. We are enthusiastic over the C. L. S. C., because we can see and feel some of its benefits already. We know the forty minutes a day pays better interest than any similar time spent in any secular business. We know its value cannot be computed by any known tables. We recommend it to everybody, and we feel 'twill grow here among us. It is succeeding everywhere, it must succeed, and must produce good results, for 'We study the Word and the Works of God.'"

"I AM quite an invalid, so I take the reading slowly and in small doses, but I cannot begin to tell the good it has done me."

"LIFE seems to me to have been lifted on a higher plane since my association with the C. L. S. C. I know I am a better wife, I love my Christian work better, I am better acquainted with the Master, and as the intellect is cultivated, the soul is pushed out into greater depths and heights and breadths."

"I ENJOY the reading and study more than I can express, believing that its influence is elevating. I regret that I cannot enjoy the advantages of a local circle. I did try to interest some in my own neighbourhood, but did not succeed."

"It is helping me regain what I lost under the pernicious influence of novel reading. It fills many moments, that would have been spent in idle dreaming, with rare pleasure in the acquirement of knowledge. Its purifying influence is making life more real and earnest. I belong to a small circle numbering six members. Two of the number read last year, and