

continually expanding and growing. The same is true of the ideal Christian character. It must go on adding to "faith, temperance," etc. John Wesley taught the doctrine of Christian perfection, but he never believed in any perfection that did not admit of an increase. "The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

### Where the Need is Greatest.

One of our ministers, in writing for a copy of 'Studies in the Life of Christ,' refers to the difficulty of arousing attention to the importance of Bible Study, and then adds this very significant sentence:

"In such a work, surely 'tis where the interest is least that the need is greatest. Therefore I am persuaded that every difficulty in the way is but an additional reason why the work should be carried on." This is good philosophy.

### A Gratifying Change.

It is evident that Christ's followers are becoming more altruistic. A few years ago it was quite common to hear people in their prayers and testimonies thank God for health and strength, "while others were lying on beds of sickness." Men praised the Lord because He had saved them, "while thousands had been left to perish." There is reason for gratification that this note of personal satisfaction has, to some extent, been changed to one of concern for the comfort and salvation of others. This thought, however, needs still greater emphasis. A selfish form of religion is a hideous caricature of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who spent his life "ministering," and not in being "ministered unto."

### Do Something.

Some of our correspondents ask: "How can we take up the Epworth League Reading Course, the Bible Study Course, the Missionary Study Class, and all the other work that a League is expected to do?" Our reply is simply this: We do not expect that every Epworth League will take up every phase of work suggested by our General Board, but every society should do something besides holding a weekly prayer-meeting. So many Leagues are doing nothing of an educational nature that there is plenty of room for all the schemes that have been launched. In many places they are all being worked successfully, for it is surprising how much can be done when there is an earnest purpose.

### A Sunday-school Pastor.

The new pastor of the Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto, Rev. Dr. Perry, late of Chicago, commenced his work in this city on Sunday, December 6th. How long did it take him to identify himself with the work of the Sunday-school? So little that the Sunday-school workers themselves were almost startled.

At the Sunday-morning service he announced that he would meet the officers and teachers for half an hour previous to the Sunday-school session. After saying a few introductory words, and telling them how glad he was to meet them, the new pastor went right to business by addressing one of the teachers: "How many scholars have you in your class?"

"Eight," was the reply.

"How many of them are Christians and members of the church?"

"Three," replied the teacher, "and five are not."

"It ought to be the other way," said Dr. Perry. "Now

work and pray for the conversion of the five, and see if you cannot bring them in before Christmas."

Similar counsel was given to all the other teachers who had unconverted scholars in their classes, and all those men and women went to their work that afternoon with a greater sense of their responsibility in regard to spiritual results than they had ever realized before.

What would be the result if pastors everywhere would follow this example?

Just think of it! Thirty-seven thousand copies of the book, "Studies in the Life of Christ," have been printed and circulated among the young people of the M. E. Church. It must be a book of unusual excellence to command such a sale. Everybody who has seen it praises it.

Since last October the Bureau of Bible Study in the M. E. Church of the United States has enrolled five hundred new classes to study "Studies in the Life of Christ," which is the text-book adopted for our own Leagues. Who says that Methodist young people are not interested in Bible study?

We saw a freight train on the Grand Trunk passing under a bridge at Harrisburg the other day. It was fully ten feet from the top of the cars, but the brakeman "ducked" his head when the car on which he was standing came to the bridge. It was a striking illustration of the force of habit.

A young man when asked to attend an Epworth League meeting, replied, "Oh no, I can't do it, for I have to go to the Lodge, and you know I have an office." Wouldn't it be a good thing to anchor more young men to the League by giving them an office and thus put responsibility upon them?

We are pleased to know by a note from the Literary Vice-President of the Ottawa District that the prospects for the Bible Institute to be held in that district next fall are good, and a "successful result is assured far beyond question." The district officers are acting wisely in making arrangements well in advance.

As an illustration of the attention that our Young People's Societies are giving to the subject of Bible study, at the recent Convention of the Guelph District League there were no less than four addresses on this subject on the programme: two by Prof. McLaughlin, one by Rev. A. E. Lavell, and one by Rev. T. J. Parr. This indicates that the Epworth League means to put "first things first."

In talking of and working for missions, do not forget the home field. Mr. Moody once asked a young missionary candidate what he had ever done for the conversion of another. He answered, "Nothing." Mr. Moody then remarked that if he had done nothing in America he was not likely to do much in India. If you have a desire to be a missionary go right out and see what you can do with the heathen on your own street.

We are pleased to learn that the executive committee which had the task of arranging for the holding of the late International Epworth League Convention has about closed its work, and reports the entire cost of their part to have been \$12,000. There is a surplus of \$1,000 in the treasury, so thoroughly did the committee, under Chairman Southwick do its work. This \$1,000 will be divided *pro rata* among the subscribers.