

THE

# Canadian Epworth Era

DEVOTED TO THE STUDY OF PRINCIPLES AND METHODS OF  
WORK IN YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES AND SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

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At Home with the Editor

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## "Let Us Advance"

In our September issue we said a few things on this subject that aroused attention on the part of some, and at conventions and similar gatherings in various parts of our work questions have been asked and plans laid for the extension and development of our Sunday School and Young People's interests. What may we reasonably set before us as a standard for the current year? Some careful thought has led up to this conclusion. We ought to see during the year the following:

One Hundred New Sunday Schools.  
One Hundred New Epworth Leagues.  
Two Hundred New Junior Epworth Leagues.  
Two Hundred New Home Departments.  
Two Hundred New Teacher Training Classes.  
Three Hundred New Organized Adult Bible Classes.  
Five Hundred New Cradle Rolls.  
Two Thousand New Subscribers to this Paper.

*Twenty Thousand New Church Members from the Sunday School.*

There is not a department mentioned above but is of utmost importance to the whole church. We shall fall behind our honorable past record and fall to do our part in the moral and religious development of this great country if we do not plant Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies in every accessible community. And these must be brought up to the highest possible degree of excellence. The first eight numbers in the list given above will all help to the attainment of this standard. The last is the test and proof of the genuineness of our work. Any less number than 20,000 additions to the membership of the church during the year will mean comparative failure. We should have many more, but we place this standard before our workers as one that we believe to be easily within our reach if we all labor and pray together. To work, then, in the spirit of earnest effort, impelled by love of Christ and of souls, and sustained throughout by the uplift of a mighty faith that lays hold of the Divine promise in prevailing prayer! Organization and Evangelism should be the watchwords of the Sunday School and Young People's Department all throughout our church. Then we shall most surely Advance.

## Everyone a Messenger

The weakest Christian has a message, for even he knows something of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus the Lord. And such a message is to be told. Hence the obligation of the messenger. No life is so poor, but it knows something of the value of Divine riches, and no voice is so feeble that it cannot tell even with faint utterance or stammering speech, what it knows. "Pastor, I must give my testimony," said a young Christian as the writer was about to close a meeting one night, on which many had given witness for God. With fear and trembling he had postponed his speaking until the service was about to end. Then, with a burden of desire struggling with a sense of weakness he began as above, and his words became both clear and convincing as he proceeded. The deliverance of his message that night was a benediction to himself and to many others. Have you not felt sometimes the presence of conviction that you ought to make known your appreciation of Christ, your purpose to

do His will, your desire to render Him service, your longing for the universal growth of His Kingdom? To stifle such conviction by silence is a sure way to lose spiritual blessing. Deliver your message, and though it may be in weakness and with fear, He will see that it falls not to glorify the Name in whose praise you have spoken. In public, in private, by oral testimony, by silent ministry, to many, to one—in every possible manner, through all available channels, we covet for our young people some form of message for Jesus, and a loving willingness to be a messenger for Him.

## What God Wills

There are some things concerning which the will of God may be a matter of question. But there are so many things in relation to which God's will is so clear and explicit that no one who sincerely desires to do it need make mistake. In the great essentials of Christian character and practice there is no room for doubt. As to the duty of every Christian to labor for the universal extension of the Redeemer's Kingdom only one opinion can be held. When the first Crusade was being planned, and Pope Urban II. aroused the multitudes at Clermont in 1095, the enthusiastic and excited crowds shouted "Deus vult! . . . Deus vult!" The spirit there awakened did not die for many successive years, but prompted successive campaigns to win the Land from the Infidel. The Crusades failed because they deserved to fail, and were not in harmony with the true will of God. With the same spirit, but with a clearer vision of duty and responsibility, the Christian world of to-day is taking up the peaceful way of conquest, and going forth conscious that to bring the whole world under the pacific and benevolent sway of the Gospel is strictly in obedience to the will and command of the Sovereign King. We may sound out the battle call of the Twentieth Century Missionary Crusade with absolute certainty, "God wills it! God wills it!"

## Some Present Day Conditions

There are at least seven outstanding characteristics of present-day life that very materially affect Christian work among the young. Whether these are inevitable consequences of changing conditions is not at once apparent, and whether they will injure or help in the care and culture of the youth by the church, we are not now discussing. Here they are, simply stated for you to consider, and if you wish, to write the Editor about:

1. Looseness of Parental Discipline and Lack of Home Restraints.
2. Liberty of Individual Judgment.
3. License in Worldly Amusements.
4. Laxity in Church Attendance.
5. Latitude in Creedal Beliefs.
6. Liberalism in Scriptural Interpretation.
7. Love of Material Gain.

Any observant student of the young life of to-day must be impressed with the fact of the existence of the above seven conditions. That they make the work of reaching, interesting, saving, developing, and using young people a different matter from even a generation ago, we think the most experienced leaders among us will freely admit. And that the changed conditions of life make it imperative that we adopt new plans and

"Our life is a constant trial and all our neighbors are on the jury."