

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

CONDUCTED BY S. JOHN DUNCAN-CLARK.

WORLD'S C. E. PRAYER CHAIN, SUBJECT FOR MARCH.—For pastors and preachers the world around, that they may be filled with power from on high, and that their people, young and old, may co-operate with them more effectively in all Christian work.

Daily Readings.

KEPT FROM GOD.

First Day—Pride—Isa. ii. 10-22.

Second Day—Falschhood—Ps. lii. 1-9.

Third Day—Hatred—Lev. xix. 18-18.

Fourth Day—Hypocrisy—Matt. xxiii. 1-33.

Fifth Day—Selfishness—Luke vi. 30-35.

Sixth Day—Cowardice—Matt. xxvi. 69, 69-75.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, MAR. 29.—THINGS THAT KEEP US FROM GOD.—Prov. vi. 10-19; viii. 13-17.

When we were yet sinners, and far from God, He sent His only begotten Son and through His rent flesh opened up a way so that we who once were distant might now be made nigh by the blood of Christ; and with the gift of His Son, He has offered us freely all things else. Seeing that this is so, how insuperable must be the obstacle that can keep a soul from God! How enchanting the allurements that can win one from His love! But, no, when we come to look more closely the obstacle seems no larger than a stubborn will, and the allurements no sweeter than the satisfaction of one's own desires; so that summed up, in one word that thing which keeps us from God is our helpless, sinful and wretched self. How strange it is that we should cling so long and so strongly to this loathsome, body of death which we dignify by the name of "self," when it is our privilege to possess God! How strange that we should allow our lives to be controlled by a power so utterly corrupt, our joys to be chosen by a taste so completely vitiated, when we might be under the sway of One who is the embodiment of holiness, and reveling in the fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore to be found at the right hand of God! Why cling to self longer then? Let us make a complete denial of it; reckon it by faith, dead on Calvary and buried in the tomb of Joseph, its place taken by the risen Christ in all His plenitude of power and fulness to satisfy, and then we will enter into the life of communion and fellowship with God, and height, nor depth, nor any other creature shall not be able to part us from His love.

The Missionary Committee.

We are glad to be able to give our readers this week a paper written by Miss Jessie McBean of St. John's Church, Toronto, and read at the recent conference of the Y.P.P.U. We look upon it as one of the most suggestive and helpful contributions to the missionary literature of the C.E. movement that we have had the pleasure of reading.

The great work of the Church of Christ to-day is to preach the Gospel to every creature.

The work is done, only when the word of Truth is fully preached, not alone at home but also unto the uttermost part of the earth.

This then is the chief business of the church. It is the chief business of the congregation. It is the chief business of the Young People's Society in the congregation and of every individual in the Society.

In this convention we are concerned with the part the Young People shall take in the work of the world's evangelization and this paper has to do with the duties of the Missionary Committee, in regard to that work.

In considering the place of the Missionary Committee in the Young People's Society, I will speak of:—

I. The Committee itself.

II. Its work.

I. THE COMMITTEE.—A good Convener should be chosen for this Committee. It has been said, "That the interest a congregation has in the work of missions is nearly always determined by the interest of the pastor, a missionary pastor will have a missionary congregation. In like manner will it in some measure be true, that, the Young People's Society, will have an interest in missions in proportion to the zeal in this work of its Missionary Committee and the chief officers of the Society. So it is very necessary that a Convener should be chosen, who is fully alive on missions.

There should be a judicious choice of members for this Committee. Only earnest consecrated workers should be chosen; those who realize their own responsibility to God of carrying the Gospel to every creature.

There should be regular meetings for conference and prayer, once a month at least. The injunction of our Lord as he looked upon the harvest field of the world was, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the Harvest," and in Matt. xviii 19, "I say unto you that if two of you shall agree on earth, as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in Heaven." With such a promise as this, should not the Committee very often pray to God for blessing and guidance in their work?

The Committee should also meet as often as possible with their pastor. In our society a Committee meets with the pastor for half an hour before the prayer-meeting, on Wednesday evening. This is an excellent plan. It enables the pastor to become acquainted with the work of each Committee and affords them an opportunity for prayer and conference on their work with him. And it is very important that this Committee be much in prayer regarding their work. Henry Martyn, says: "Live more with Christ; catch more of His spirit; for the spirit of Christ is the spirit of Missions and the nearer we get to Him the more intensely Missionary we become."

II. THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE:—The work is to do what it

can, to deepen the interest of the members in Missions. How can this be done? By systematic study of Missions. The Committee can draw up a programme of studies in which different countries may be thoroughly considered, and the present condition and need of Christian work in these lands. If such a course of studies is to be carried out successfully two things are necessary:—

The first a Missionary Library. For the sake of the society in general, and especially for the Missionary Committee, this is very needful. Furnish materials and you will have better meetings. This Committee is to generate Missionary enthusiasm and intelligence. Can its members generate enthusiasm unless they are enthusiastic themselves? Can they be enthusiastic about anything unless they are well informed? If any Society present has not a Missionary Library. Here is work for its Missionary Committee. We have one in our Society, containing sixty or seventy volumes, three monthly magazines and the Encyclopædia of Missions, and we find it of the greatest value in our work.

The second thing needed is a complete set of good maps. Nearly all the maps can be made by members; this adds greatly to the interest. By the use of maps and charts you will be certain to teach your audience something. It is far easier to learn through the eye than by the ear. And when studying a field, if the exact location of a station can be pointed to, more interest will be taken in the work and workers.

Another work of this Committee is the holding of public meetings. Here is one plan which has proved successful. The Missionary Committee joined their forces with the other missionary organizations of the church, and for a week held an exhibit of curios costumes and products of mission fields. There were zealous addresses in the evenings and much prayer before, during, and after the meetings. Why not try this method? It may result in tired feet, tired hands, tired heads; but it is a blessed privilege to be tired for the Master's sake.

After holding a week of such meetings you might have a very helpful meeting of the Society, to be called "A Memory Meeting," at which each member would relate the part of the lectures that especially impressed him, repeating such facts as he remembered. This is a good method of impressing missionary intelligence.

A missionary committee can do some very effectual work by correspondence. Has a bright sunshine letter ever cheered you, and brought your life into sympathy with some other life? There are weary lonely men and women in distant lands, where encouragement must be very slight and friendship almost impossible, what might not an hour's work with your pen, a spark of the bright life God has given you, do for them. If you want to make foreign missions seem real to you, try a little letter writing.

Here is a plan the Missionary Committee can use for keeping the missionaries whom they are interested in and who are in home or foreign fields, constantly before the Society. Place in conspicuous points in the meeting-room, cards bearing the names of the missionaries, these to be clearly printed so as to be read across the room. It is an additional assistance to have a large map of the world hung in the room, the location of each missionary being marked upon it, with his name.

Then the Missionary Committee can do so much to help home missions. There are mission schools to be started and helped along by attendance and aid in the music. There are orphanages, hospitals, and destitute families where the field is ripe for deeds of charity, missionary literature can also be distributed. How many people there are who have plenty of reading matter just wasting, this they would gladly give to the committee who could give it to needy schools and homes. In all these ways the seed of the Gospel may be sown.

Still another way in which the committee can work, is by arranging for Scripture studies along the line of missions. Having subjects such as these:

"What the Bible says about the spiritual condition of the heathen."

"The Missionary Commands."

"The Missionary Promises in Old and New Testament."

"The Missionary Parables."

We read so much in studying foreign missions of the Bible-women, and the great work they are doing with the Grand Old Book. Why does not every Missionary Committee contain Bible-men and women even more powerful than these because the opportunity is greater. You are a special band of witnesses for Christ, don't forget to make good use of His written witness.

The question of Christian giving, especially to missions, comes under the control of this committee. It is their duty to establish a right motive for giving in the Society. Systematic giving by envelope is one of the best methods. Many use the "Fulton plan" of a penny a week. This is surely in the power of all.

Above all dear committee, do not forget your duty to be soul-winners, step out into the by-ways and hedges, win souls for Christ anywhere, everywhere. This committee has the broadest, grandest, office in the whole Society and ought to be its pride. Is it?

FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL

CONDUCTED BY S. JOHN DUNCAN-CLARK.

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON XIII.—REVIEW—MARCH 29.

(Studies in Luke's Gospel).

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Whoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God."—Luke xii. 8.

CENTRAL TRUTH.—The Son of Man.

PERIOD.—B.C. 5—A.D. 29.

INTRODUCTION.—The lessons of this quarter beautifully portray the mission of the Son of God. In His character and life among men He was a perfect example of purity, and devotion to the Father's will.