

THE AYLESFORD UNION.

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by THE

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

Our purposes are in no sense to compete with, but rather to help the already existing denominational papers. We therefore make the following special offers:—

To anyone not already a subscriber for the *Messenger & Visitor* we will send that paper and the *AYLESFORD UNION* each for one year, for \$1.50.

To all old subscribers for the *M. & V.* who will pay up arrears and pay one year in advance, we will give the *AYLESFORD UNION* free for one year.

To anyone who will send us \$1.25 we will send the *Baptist Union* and the *AYLESFORD UNION* each for one year.

To anyone sending us four paid subscriptions to the *AYLESFORD UNION* we will send a free copy for a year.

For 8 paid subscribers we will send the *Baptist Union* free.

For 10 paid subscribers we will send the *Messenger and Visitor* free or the *Baptist Union* and our own paper both free.

For 12 paid subscribers we will send the *Messenger and Visitor* and our own paper both free.

EDITORIALS.

Now that our young people are well organized both at Aylesford and Morris-town it becomes necessary that we should take on the different departments of B. Y. P. U. work as soon as possible. It seems to us that aside from devotional work which is already being done in our young peoples' prayer meetings, the Christian Culture Courses stand first in order of importance. We take it for granted that every B. Y. P. U. member is animated by a desire to make the most of every means within possible reach for the fitting of himself or herself for future service. This can only be done by faithful, patient, persevering, and above all

systematic effort. No man ever drifted into qualification for anything but a drifting purposeless life. As this is then the universal law of life let us obey it in matters religious as well as in matters secular. How great is the need and how wide the field! If we have anything like a true conception of the exalted nature of "the calling whereto we have been called in Jesus Christ," we must realize the great need there is of "culture for service," while the extent of the field before us is only half-suspected until we have covered some of its lengths and breadths. The culture courses are the embodiment of an effort on the part of our International Union to place within easy reach of every Union the means of a culture which shall be wide in its range and practical in its results. The usual hindrance of expensive text books has been admirably overcome by furnishing all the matter necessary for the successful pursuit of all three courses, in *The Baptist Union*, the official organ of the B. Y. P. U. A., which is offered at the low price of \$1.00 per year. No Unioner should rest content until he possesses this paper and is thus supplied with a most helpful educator as well as placed in personal touch with the world at large.

Of the Culture Courses a limited space will permit us to speak but briefly. These are three in number, the Bible Readers' Course, the Conquest Missionary Course, and The Sacred Literature Course, each extending over a period of four years. The Bible Readers' Course provides a plan of daily readings whereby the entire Bible is completed in four years. The books of the Bible are grouped into historical books, poetical books, Epistolary books and prophetic books and each group furnishes a year's readings. This year's readings, which began Oct. 1st '96, are in the poetical books. Helpful comments emphasize each day's readings, while each week's calendar is accompanied by notes upon the book being read and very helpful "Talks to young Christians." This course can be taken up by any one at any time and pursued successfully without any class assistance. The Conquest Missionary Course is designed to present a general view of missions from apostolic times to the present day, under the four general heads, "Connections and Beginnings," "Organizations and Methods," "Fields and Operations" and "Leaders and Triumphs." Each of the topics furnishes a year's readings and this year we are engaged upon the second. Although the year's topic began in October last, yet much benefit can be derived by taking up the work at earliest possible date. As with the Bible Readers' Course no class assistance is really necessary.

The Sacred Literature Course "is designed to present a progressive unfolding of the Messianic kingdom, both in its preparatory period in the old dispensation and in its unfolding in the New Testament and Christian times." The general divisions of topics are as follows:—"Preparations for the Messiah," "The life of Christ," "The Dawn of Christianity," and "Struggles for distinctive principles." Each topic comprises thirty lessons assigned from Oct. 1st to May 1st and while they can be taken by the individual apart from a class, much interest and profit are added by meeting together. This year's studies are on the "Life of Christ" with special reference to his teachings. In conclusion let it be said that the readings are in popular style, free from technicalities and couched in language which places them within the capacity of any intelligent person of ordinary attainments. Let each one take hold of this work with a determination to wring from it every ounce of good which it contains.

At the last quarterly business meeting of the Upper Aylesford church the question of the necessity of the word "Upper" in the church's name was raised. There would seem to be no good and sufficient reason why the extra word should be continued in use unless the plea that "it has always been so," be considered sufficient. We are the only Aylesford Baptist church, — the town, station and post office all being called Aylesford. Moreover, there is no such place as Upper Aylesford and with the unnecessary word eliminated we would be quite as easily distinguished from the Lower Aylesford church as we are now. Why not make the change?

Has not the time about come when especially on a large field like this the practice of funeral sermons at the church should be replaced by a service at the home of the deceased? It would mean the removal of a very heavy and we think unnecessary burden from the shoulders of the pastor. We would like to hear from our people upon the subject and would gladly give a limited amount of space for a free expression of opinion.

Now that the International Convention will meet at Chattanooga, Ten. instead of at Brooklyn, N. Y. we hope that the change will not lessen our Maritime delegation nor prevent the Aylesford B. Y. P. U. from being represented.

The Aylesford Union welcomes the new General Secretary, Dr. E. E. Chevins. Added to the interest that attaches to his position is that of personal acquaintance in the present case. God bless our new General Secretary.