

Young People's Work FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.

The Committee on Young People's Societies of the Co-operation of Disciples of Christ in Ontario: W. W. Coulter, Chairman; Reuben Butehart, A. Johnston.

Everything intended for insertion in this column should be sent to W. W. Coulter, St. Thomas, Ont.

The C. E. Union of St. Thomas held its bi-monthly meeting in Grace Methodist church on the 13th inst. There was a large attendance. A very interesting and encouraging report of the Provincial Endeavor Convention was presented by Miss Secord, and the writer presented resolutions pledging the Endeavorers of the city to do their utmost in favor of the Plebiscite.

The Union will hold a C. E. watch-meeting in the Y. M. C. A. rooms on New Year's eve. This will be a most fitting way to close the old year,—to thank God for the blessings of the past and make new resolves for the future.

THE PLEBISCITE.—Mr. Gibson, Post Master of Ingersoll, lectured on the Plebiscite in the church of Christ, St. Thomas, on the 17th inst. He is a clear logical speaker, understands his subject thoroughly, and presents his facts in such a telling manner as to convince even the most hardened of the enormity of the liquor traffic. He showed conclusively that the present license system is effective only as its prohibitory clauses are enforced, and the benefits flowing from closed bars on Sundays, voting and holidays, are strong arguments in favor of closing them 365 days in the year.

Mrs. Roberts entertained the modelites and students of St. Thomas Business College, who have attended the Endeavor Society of the Church of Christ, to a supper on the 21st inst. The programme was informal, and a most enjoyable time was spent. We expect to hear good reports from these earnest Christian Endeavorers as they go forth to the "battle of life."

We are pleased to present a very interesting communication from Bro. McDougall, the efficient Secretary of the Guelph Endeavor Society of the Church of Christ. This is a live society, and is doing a splendid work for the Master. We should like to hear from all our societies before the close of the year. W. W. C.

GUELPH Y. P. S. C. E.—On Monday evening, Oct. 23rd, the Guelph Local C. E. Union, of which Bro. Geo. Fowler is president, met in the Church of Christ to hear the reports from the delegates to the Provincial C. E. Convention at St. Catharines. Interesting and instructive reports were given by the following delegates: Miss G. Clark (Congregational); Mrs. Day (Morriston Presbyterian); M. G. Clayton (Baptist); and Mr. Geo. Fowler (Church of Christ).

In the absence of our pastor, Sunday, Nov. 5th, the Y. P. S. C. E. took charge of the evening service. A very profitable meeting was held in which some of the older brethren took part.

A very pleasant social was held on Tuesday evening, Nov. 7th, by the society. As Bro. Geo. Fowler was absent, Bro. J. P. Reed acted as chairman of the meeting in a very acceptable manner.

Our semi-annual election of officers took place on Monday evening, Nov. 13th. The following were elected: Honorary President, Bro. Geo. Fowler; President, Bro. J. P. Reed; Vice-President, Sister M. Mitchell; Treasurer, Sister May McDougall; Recording Secretary, Bro. Alex. Cutting; Corresponding Secretary, W. C. McDougall. Hitherto the Lord has blessed us in our work, and we go forward with greater confidence in His promises and greater earnestness to advance the cause of Christ and His church.

The Junior C. E. is holding its regular meetings on Monday afternoons of each week. These meetings are growing in interest, the members taking part readily and cheerfully.

The church here purpose (D. V.) to hold special services commencing Dec. 3rd, and we would earnestly ask you to remember in your prayers our work in this place. W. C. McDUGALL, Box 235. Cor. Sec.

C. E. Notes.

GEO. FOWLER, GUELPH.

Dec. 10.—Kept by the power of God. 1 Peter i. 1-5; John xvii. 11-15.

The Apostle Peter in his first epistle, which is addressed to "The Sojourners of the Dispersion," in the third verse, burst forth in praise to God for His abundant mercy in giving a glorious hope of an eternal inheritance, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This great inheritance is reserved in heaven for all of God's children—those who are kept and guarded through faith unto salvation.

How then are we kept or guarded? Right here we must carefully guard against two extremes. One, that we keep ourselves in our own strength. Man's strength alone is powerless against the foes of darkness. If it were not for the strength that we receive from the eternal throne of God, we would not, could not, stand one minute. "Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might."

The other extreme is that we have nothing to do, that God does it all, that it would be impossible for us to fall. This is equally dangerous, fallacious. The writer of the Hebrews says, 'But Christ as a son over His house; whose house are we, if we hold fast our boldness and the glorying of our hope firm unto the end.' "Take heed, brethren, if haply there should be in any one of you an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from the living God. . . . for we are become partakers of Christ if we hold fast the beginning of our confidence firm unto the end." Heb. iii. 6, 12-14.

How are we kept? By obeying the commands of Christ and walking in His footsteps. By the power of God. He has given us Christ as an ever-present Saviour. "Having then a great High Priest who hath passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession, for we have not a High Priest that cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but one that hath been in all points tempted like as we, yet without sin. Let us therefore draw near with boldness unto the throne of grace that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need." Heb. iv. 14-16.

We must through prayer ask for strength. God has given us a complete armor that we might fight in His name and conquer in His strength. Eph. vi. 16-20. God has given us the armor and we must put it on and keep it on. He has given us the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. We must grasp it firmly and wield it in His strength.

The Word of God appeals to the highest and best that is within us. We are warned of the consequences of rejecting Christ and a precious reward is offered to all those that accept Him and continue faithful to the end.

We are anchored to God by faith. "We are justified by faith." There are but two kinds of faith—dead faith, which the devils have and tremble, and living faith, which leads us to accept and obey. Thus we are "by the power of God guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Another source of strength is the Holy Spirit given to the obedient as a comforter to dwell in our hearts. The true way of being kept is well expressed in our pledge: "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength."

References—Jude i. 24; Rom. xvi. 25-27; 2 Tim. iv. 18; Col. i. 22; Eph. ii. 8; Heb. iv. 14-16; Heb. iii. 6, 12-14; Rev. ii. 26; iii. 12; Mark xiii. 13; 2 Tim. i. 12-14.

Dec. 17.—The Wonderful Love of Christ. Rev. i. 1-5; John xv. 9-13.

"Nothing is true but love, nor ought of worth, Love is the incense which doth sweeten earth. O merchant at heaven's mart for heavenly ware, Love is the only coin which passes there. The wine of love can be obtained of none, Save Him who trod the wine-press all alone."

ARCHBISHOP TRENCH

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."—John xv. 13. This depth of love is seldom manifested. But few can rise to the sublime height; but Paul says of Christ: "But God commendeth His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us."—Rom. v. 8. "Love," says Prof. Drummond, "is the greatest thing in earth." Is it not the greatest thing in the universe? For God does not only love us, but He is himself "essentially and eternally love." "God is love."

Measure Christ's love by His words, and does it not pass into the infinite? No such life has the world seen before or since. His was a life emptied of self, a life wholly devoted, entirely given to the salvation of humanity.

He loved man as man, without regard to race, condition or character. Not the love of the good, or the wise, or the brave, or the noble, the Jew or the Gentile, but the love of man. It despised none; it rejected none. It blessed even the unthankful and the unholy. Like the light and the air, the sunshine and the shower, it was for the evil and the good, the just and the unjust. It withheld not good from even the worst enemies. Nor was the good bestowed grudgingly; it was rather imparted with princely dignity and loyal bounty. Jesus "went about doing good." The hideous leper, the frightful maniac, the despised outcast, met only with kind attention, tender sympathy and generous help from the "friend of sinners." If the wrath of His enemies put them beyond the reach of His benediction, they were still within the circle of His sympathies and His prayers. His heavenly answer to their murderous rage was, "Father forgive them, they know not what they do."—ERRETT.

The motive that actuated our Saviour is set forth by Paul in 2 Cor. viii. 9: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye, through His poverty, might become rich."

If you would have some conception of Christ's love, study this statement of Paul's in the light of, 1, The condition and possession of the God-man before His incarnation. 2, The life to which His incarnation subjected Him; and 3, The reason for which He made so great a sacrifice.

After we begin to catch a glimpse of "Christ's wonderful love," let us burn upon our hearts Christ's commandment—"that ye love one another even as I have loved you."

"Thou art as much His care as if beside Nor man nor angel lived in heaven or earth, Thus sunbeams pour alike their glorious tide

To light up worlds or wake an insect's mirth; They shine and shine with unexhausted store; Thou art thy Saviour's darling—seek no more."

KEHLER.

References.—1 Cor. xiii. 1-3, 1 John iv. 16, iv. 10-12, Eph. iii. 19, John xiv. 23, Matt. v. 44, 45, Gal. ii. 20, Rom. viii. 28, 2 Cor. v. 14, Rev. i. 5, John iii. 16, Rom. viii. 3, 1 John iii. 1, Ps. cxlvi. 8, 1 Cor. iii. 9.

Guelph. GEO. FOWLER.

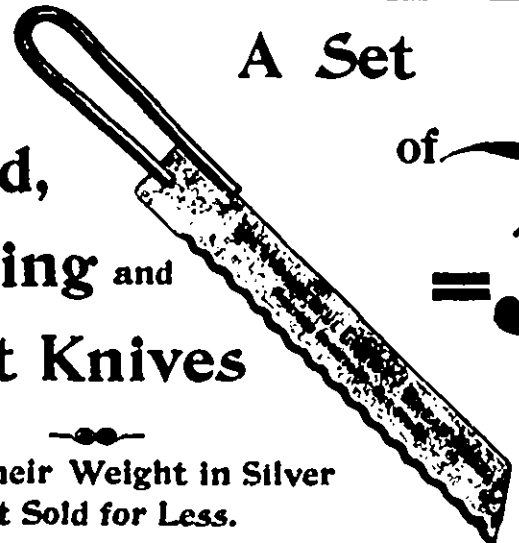
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