

B. Y. P. U.

B. Y. P. U. PRAYER MEETING TOPIC.

(Notes by W. C. Vincent.)

For the week beginning Jan. 17.—Mark 9: 1-15. The Transfiguration.

As an introduction, read 2 Peter 1: 16 to 18. Then as we meditate on this sublime event, let us ask ourselves three questions:—
First, what was the transfiguration?

It was not a *dream*. The disciples were not asleep, although the English version of Luke seems to imply this. But the original language of Luke conveys no such impression. "When they were awake" should read "Yet having remained awaked." (Schaff.)

It was not a *france*. Any fair interpretation compels us to believe that it was a real and a supernatural occurrence. The disciples saw the change take place—"He was transfigured before them." They heard the voices in conversation on His decease and saw Moses and Elijah. Let us not be afraid of the supernatural in this age when men are endeavoring to eliminate the divine even from religion.

Second, Why did it occur? not for Jesus' sake. On another occasion He said, "This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes." So we must believe of this. It was for the strengthening of the disciples. In the preceding chapter Jesus announced His ill-treatment and death, verses 31 and 32 of ch. 9. This announcement greatly surprised and depressed the disciples. During the intervening six days they remain in gloomy horror. To deliver them from this state and to strengthen their faith for the trial soon to come on them, Jesus obtains this vision from the Father. They now saw what before they believed. Henceforth they no longer believe but they know.

Third, What does this unparalleled event teach? (a) Its primary lesson is concerning the glory of our Lord—"We were eyewitnesses of His Majesty" says Peter. The divine glory which dwelt perpetually in Jesus now shone forth for a little while.

"It pleased the Father that in Him should all fulness dwell." "In Him dwelleth the fulness of the Godhead bodily." He is "the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of his person." This was a brief display of this inner-glory. To speculate on this unparalleled event would be as useless as darning. Let us rather take off our sandals for the place on which we tread is holy ground. Let us seek to catch a glimpse of His glory. The method is indicated in the narrative. It was while He prayed that the glory came. Visions of glory are only got by praying men. The Christian who can argue better than he can pray, may call your spiritual-ecstasies imagination. But do you keep on praying—pray always, pray more than you talk and argue, and "Heaven will come down your soul to greet and glory crown the mercy seat." Who knows how much of Heaven we might enjoy on earth if we prayed more and better.

(b) This scene teaches also the preciousness of a Christian's faith and peace. This whole occurrence was specially to strengthen the faith and restore the peace of the disciples. Read 1 Peter 1: 6, 7.

(c) It teaches too the reality of a future state of conscious, intelligent existence, such as Moses and Elijah were enjoying. Thus may we picture all the dead in Christ as actively interested in the redemption of man.

(d) It teaches the importance of the death of Christ. "They talked of his decease." It is well for each Unioner to fix his mind on this fact in this day when so little is being made of His blood and so much of His example. The central fact in the world's history is the death of Jesus Christ.

(e) It gives us a revelation of the glory of the coming kingdom of God, read 2 Peter 1: 16, etc., on this. He makes the whole scene a picture of the coming of Christ to set up His glorious kingdom on earth. What a glorious day that will be! We won't need Peter's tabernacles for we shall sit down and remain with Abraham, and

all the prophets in the Kingdom of God from which sorrow and sighing have been banished. But in the meantime Jesus is pointing out to us as He did to Peter that in the valley below are multitudes waiting to be healed and delivered. Let us "Hear Him," the beloved Son, and labor and wait till He come.

"Let the little while between
In their golden light be seen;
Let us think how heaven and home
Lie beyond that, 'till He come."

Fredericton, N. B.

The Fredericton B. Y. P. U. is doing a good work, we believe, in the Master's name. It is favored with a pastor, who is an enthusiast in Young People's work.

For some years many of our best christian young people were outside the B. Y. P. U. Conscientiousness prevented them from signing so binding a pledge. After much debate this matter was left optional. Soon those who had hitherto been debarred from fellowship flocked in, and our numbers were greatly increased so that now our Union numbers over one hundred active members. We are fortunate, too, in having during the school terms, valuable assistance from the students both of the University and Normal School.

Our prayer meetings are held Tuesday evenings and are generally well attended. A Sacred Literature Class of about sixty members meets every two weeks at the homes of the different members. Here the society has again been favored in obtaining a leader, Mr. H. C. Henderson, a devoted Christian and earnest student of the Word. Great interest is manifested in these lessons, and each night we find a good number gathered together to study God's Word. "We study that we may serve," and so we look for bright prospects as a result of this class.

Our semi-annual election of officers took place at last Tuesday's business meeting. The society certainly made a wise decision in appointing such officers as Mr. H. C. Henderson, pres.; Dr. F. W. Barbour, 1st vice pres.; Mr. F. W. Porter, and vice pres.; Miss Ella Clark, Sec'y-Treas.

CARRIE McNALLY, Retiring Sec'y.

Charlottetown, P. E. I.

At a business meeting of the Loyalist Society Baptist Church the following were appointed officers for the ensuing half year: Pres., J. K. Ross; vice pres., E. J. Lucas; treas., L. H. Jenkins; organist, Miss A. Stentford, and the following leaders of committees: Devotional, J. P. Gordon; missionary, Mrs. C. W. Corey; visiting, Miss M. E. Davies; literary, Rev. C. W. Corey; social, A. F. Webster; Lookout, R. H. Jenkins. The report of the treasurer showed the finances to be in a healthful condition, and on motion \$100 was voted from the funds of the society towards defraying the church debt.

Monday evening, Dec. 21, 1896, Rev. T. F. Fullerton, of St. James Presbyterian church, delivered a lecture before the Young People's Society. Subject, "The life of Dr. Guthrie." The lecture was interesting, instructive and well delivered.

The literary committee of our society have under consideration a programme to be given in a short time, entitled "An Irish Night," and the social committee will very soon come forth with an up-to-date New Year social. A happy New Year to all Unioners.
R. H. JENKINS.
Charlottetown, P. E. I., Jan. 5.

Waterville, Kings Co., N. S.

To the President of the B. Y. P. U.:

The Baptist Young people of Waterville, met on Dec. 22nd 1896, and organized a B. Y. P. U. with the membership of twenty eight members. The officers elected for the term of six months are as follows:— President, Miss Jessie S. Young; Vice President, Mr. Henry A. Parker; Secretary, Miss Iva D. Anderson; Cor. Secretary, Mr. Ross M. Shaw; Treasurer, Mr. John R. Smith. Yours in the B. Y. P. U. work,
ROSS M. SHAW, Cor. Sec.

The W. M. A. Societies of Carleton and Victoria Counties met in Quarterly Convention at East Florenceville on Dec. 16th. Five of the thirteen societies were represented by delegates, four sent written reports, four failed to respond at all. The reports were encouraging and denote progress during the quarter. Crusade Day was observed by only three of the societies reported. Four public meetings had been held. It is hoped that when the next quarterly meeting is held all the societies will respond either by delegate or written report, and that we will be able to note an increase in our membership and attendance, and a much greater interest and zeal in our Master's work.

S. M. HORSMAN,
Co. Sec'y W. M. A. S.

Notices.

There will be (D. V.) a special meeting of the Board of Governors of Acadia University, in the library of the College, on Wednesday, the 3rd of February next, at 8 o'clock p. m. By order of the Executive Committee of the Board.
S. B. KEMPTON, Sec. Board.
Dartmouth, Jan. 9.

St. John and Kings counties quarterly meeting will convene (D. V.) with the Tabernacle Baptist church, St. John, on Friday, Jan. 29th, at 8 o'clock p. m. The opening sermon will be preached by Rev. Dr. Carey, sub. H. Missions. The quarterly sermon by S. D. Ervine, Rev. Mr. McNeill, alternate. Saturday sessions to be devoted to business, devotional exercises and the discussion of S. S., temperance, etc., Sunday a. m., quarterly sermon p. m., meeting under auspices of the W. M. A. S. of the Tabernacle church. In the evening sermon by some brother attending the meeting. Will all the churches send representatives, also send names to Rev. K. K. Ganong, St. John.
S. D. Ervine, President.

Jan. 7.
The Cumberland Co. Conference of Baptist churches will convene with the church at Parraboro on Jan. 26th and 27th, '97. First meeting at 4 o'clock p. m. (about). At our last session there were only a very few present. Hope the pastors and laity

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J. S. HARDING, St. John, N. B., Agent for the Maritime Provinces.

THE GREAT CHURCH LIGHT

will make an effort to be present at Parraboro. Appoint your delegates and all attend. Bro. Howe and his church will be glad to see us, and the subjects to be considered will no doubt be helpful to all. The subjects and speakers are as follows: "Short history of Baptists," Rev. Dr. Steele; "The modern faith cures," Rev. E. H. Howe; "Adoption," Rev. C. H. Haverstock; "Denominational education," Rev. W. H. McLeod; "Sketch of Sermon," Rev. J. M. Parker; "Sermon," Rev. J. W. Bancroft; "Sermon," Rev. Mr. Nowlan; Some phases of B. Y. P. U. work," Rev. J. H. McDonald.

J. L. MINER, Sec'y.

Personal.

Rev. S. D. Ervine, of Springfield, N. B., gave us a call last week. He reports a fairly prosperous condition of things and plenty of hard work on his extensive field. But Bro. E. is looking as if hard work agreed with him.

Rev. W. V. Higgins was in St. John last week attending a meeting of the Foreign Mission Board. We were pleased to see him looking so well and vigorous. Mrs. Higgins' health also, we are pleased to learn, has improved, but it will require a longer time for her to recover fully from the ill effects of the Indian climate.

Rev. W. E. McIntyre, of Chipman, was in the city last week attending the meetings of the N. B. H. M. Board and F. M. Board. A short time ago, while Mr. M. was absent from home, Mrs. McIntyre and their children narrowly escaped asphyxiation by an escape of gas from a coal stove during the night. We are pleased to learn that they have quite recovered from the ill effects of the accident.

Rev. Austen T. Kempton has accepted the pastorate of the Highland Baptist church of Fitchburg, Mass. This, we understand, is a young and vigorous church, organized in 1891, has now a membership of nearly 200, with a new house of worship just dedicated and a very encouraging outlook. We wish for Bro. Kempton the largest measure of success in his work. We hear that one of our Maritime churches desired to secure his services, but did not seek in time.

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