

HOW TO MAKE THE MEETING A FAILURE.

By not saying anything about it to your friends.

By coming late and sitting down by the door.

By neglecting to have it announced from the pulpit, in the prayer meeting, and Sunday-school.

By forgetting to ask the good singers among the young people of the church to be present and help with the singing.

By not bringing your missionary money.

By neglecting to have it announced.

By not studying Chapter XII. of the Text Book.

By not writing a few personal notes inviting your friends to come to the closing meeting of 1906.

By not recognizing that your personal effort is necessary to its success.

By thinking it will not matter if you stay away.

By not shaking hands with the strangers, and also with those whom you know.

By going unprepared to take part in the discussion.

By not knowing how much your League is giving to Missions.

By not being "a missionary on duty," and making this meeting tell for the evangelization of the world.

NEVER FORGET.

That the Word of God shall stand forever, a sure foundation for our faith.

That God's never changing purpose is to establish on earth a world-wide kingdom of peace and righteousness.

That God's purpose and plan is that the kingdom shall be self-propagated.

That disobedience to this plan of self-propagation means spiritual poverty, barrenness and death; obedience means abounding spirituality and "real success."

That spirituality and success of a church may be measured by its missionary spirit and enterprise.

That Christ demands an utter surrender of ourselves and our possessions to Him and to His plan for the world.

That earnest, persistent prayer is a mighty force to hasten the coming of the kingdom.

That our first duty is to do with earnest purpose the work that lies nearest.

JAN. 6.—"BEGINNING WITH GOD, AND CONTINUING WITH HIM."

Gen. 1: 1; John 1, 1-14-15, 47.

(CONSECRATION MEETING.)

DAILY READINGS.

Mon., Dec. 31.—The new birth. John 3.

1-8.

Tues., Jan. 1.—Babes in Christ. 1 Pet.

2, 1-5.

Wed., Jan. 2.—Pressing forward. Phil. 3.

8-14.

Thurs., Jan. 3.—Kept by Him. Jude 20.

25.

Fri., Jan. 4.—Having His peace. John

14, 27-31.

Sat., Jan. 5.—Ever with Him. 1 Thess.

4, 13-15.

SUGGESTIONS TO THE LEADER.

Give a very brief introductory talk, (five minutes or even less) and show the importance of a good start; how it affects results in all departments of activity. If the New Year is to be a blessing to us much will depend on how we begin it. The right way to commence is by giving ourselves afresh to God, and devoting our talents anew to his service.

Then show the necessity of "faithful continuance in well doing," "abiding in Christ."

In order to interest as many as possible of the members, cut up the "Suggestive Thoughts" and "Quotations" which

are here given, into slips and distribute to various persons. Ask each one to read the paragraph assigned to him or her, and add an original thought or two. Do everything possible to induce the members to express their own idea, and not depend entirely upon the thoughts of others. Close with the Questions, and let the answers be given informally by those present, without calling on any one specially. An appeal to the unconverted to give themselves to God will be quite appropriate in this first Consecration Service of the year. Ask the pastor to say a few words before the last hymn is sung.

If there is a Roll Call ask the members to respond by declaring what are their purposes for the year.

SUGGESTIVE THOUGHTS.

Let the year begin with God. Everything should begin with Him. That which is not begun with Him is not properly begun, whatever other preparation may have been made. With Him we should begin every new enterprise. If He be with us we have no need to fear.

Let the coming year be one of more fervent prayer. Growth in the Christian life is no more possible without prayer than eyesight without light.

The records of birth, marriage and death go on about as usual, and much the same as ever. And, midst all the push and flurry of our teeming lives, the eternal things change not. Can we not see and feel with every passing year, with the coming of every New Year's Day, that the real life God has given, although a part and continuance of an earthly existence, is palpably the life for which to care and make judicious and necessary provision.

We sing "Nearer, my God, to Thee," then go about our several duties, letting pride, ambition, and in too many cases mere follies, fill up the golden present. Turn about! Try faithful service, unswerving loyalty to the Master who has a right to claim all this at our hands.

Another way to make sure of a good year is to make it a year of growth. We are in this world to grow. Each day should show its new line in every life and character. We should be better men and women at the end of the year than we were at the beginning.

The man, woman or child who has learned this simple truth has learned the most important truth life has to teach. Only one day at a time to suffer; only one day at a time to do. The past is dead; the future is not yet born; to-day is yours. What will you do with it?

We ought to begin this New Year with a supreme act of trust which puts everything into the hands of our living Heavenly Father.

Let us roll all our burdens upon the Burden-bearer. In the new year let your motto be: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

When we wish our friends a "Happy New Year," it is a wish that takes in, not a day merely, but the days and months of the whole year, and that has in mind, not mere pleasure or gladness, but a sustained and abiding happiness.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

Some time ago, I had remained in my study until a late hour, retiring near midnight. No sooner had I closed my eyes in sleep than I began to dream. I heard a rap on my door, and closed my eyes. "Who is there?" "To-morrow," was the astonishing reply. I ventured to ask, "Where is yesterday?" "Gone, forever gone," was the dreadful reply. It was but a dream, and yet how true. Rev. Watson B. Duncan.

The New Year is before us. We stand, as Abraham stood upon the banks of the Euphrates, looking off towards an unknown country. "Carry us not up hence except Thou go with us!" If He be guide and counsellor, all's well. Let us, therefore, lay aside every weight and set forth bravely, like Walter Raleigh, singing:

"Give me my scallop-shell of quiet,
My staff of faith to lean upon;
My scrip of joy, immortal diet;
My bottle of salvation;
My gown of glory, hope's true gage;
And thus I take my pilgrimage."

When Martin Van Buren lay dying his last words, as the spirit took its flight, are said to have been: "There is but one reliance." In life, as in death, this is a true saying. There is but one reliance, but, thank God, it is an all-sufficient one—the Arm of Omnipotent Love. "Therefore," let us say with the ancient Psalmist, "we will not fear, though the earth be changed, and though the mountains be moved in the heart of the seas." As we enter upon the new year, let us face its possibilities with a confident faith.

With gratitude for the past, joy in the present, and trust for the future, we would engrave over the shining portals of 1906 the impressive inscriptions which are graven over the three doors of the great Cathedral of Milan: "All that which pleases is but for a moment." "All that which troubles is but for a moment." "That only is important which is eternal."

QUOTATIONS.

As one year passes into another, it is well to gather up all our earnings, and to take them with us over the unseen line; and in the new months with the old names have for our treasure, more than ever before, things new and old. A man has no right to be poor. It was a suggestive remark of Victor Hugo that he preferred fifty to forty; for forty is the old age of youth and fifty is the youth of old age.—Alexander McKenzie, D.D.

When the exiles returned to Jerusalem, Darius issued a proclamation: ordering "that which they have need of. . . let it be given them day by day without fail." And we have the promise of a greater than Darius, that God "will supply every need of ours, according to His riches of glory in Christ Jesus." Surely the new year can bring only new experiences of God's grace, new reasons for trusting His Word, new privileges in His service. Just what its days shall bring is not necessary to know. It can bring nothing which may not work together for our good. And though we know now the way in which we walk, we know that we "cannot drift beyond His love and care."
—W. S. J.

Then we need great watchfulness if we would make the voyage of the year in safety. Though we have Christ with us, this does not relieve us of our own share of the responsibility. God does carry us on angel wings through this world. The devotedest pilot would not run his vessel over the sea by prayer alone, without giving heed to his compass and his chart. Pray as earnestly as he might for divine guidance and guidance, he would watch every movement of his vessel, and give it his utmost care. A life of prayer does not free us from duty. One of our Lord's words of counsel was "Watch!" We need to watch ourselves, for our hearts are deceitful. We need to watch against the evil that is close at hand about us. We need to watch that we are not swept upon fatal rocks by sudden storms.
—J. R. Miller.

AN APPEAL.

The New Year bell rings out its solemn call alike to those who are Christians and those who are not. To this latter class