

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

CONDUCTED BY S. JOHN DUNCAN-CLARK.

WORLD'S O. E. PRAYER CHAIN, SUBJECT FOR JULY:—"Pray that the fellowship typified by the Christian Endeavor movement, based upon fidelity to Christ and loyalty to one's own Church may prevail, and that it may be greatly promoted by the International Convention at Washington."

Canada for Christ.

DAILY READINGS.

First Day.—Pray for it.—Exod. xxxii 30-35.

Second Day.—Guide it.—Matt. ix. 32-38.

Third Day.—Purify it.—Prov. xiv. 26-34.

Fourth Day.—Enjoy it.—Ps. cxlvii. 11-20.

Fifth Day.—Abraham's better country.—Gen. xii. 1-9.

Sixth Day.—Our better country.—Heb. xi. 8-16.

Prayer Meeting Topic, July 5th.—"What we owe our country.—Ps. cxxii. 1-9

We never expect to see Jesus Christ enthroned as King in Canada or any other land by means of ballot or of legislation. The Kingdom of God will not be established on earth through the triumph of any such efforts. Christian citizenship is a noble phrase, and stands for a noble movement; but any one who supposes that the happy day when righteousness shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, is to be the climax of its endeavor is doomed to sad disappointment. "Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first; and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition . . . whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming," (2. Thess. ii. 3-8) This is what the Word says about it, and so we must be content to believe that although by exerting our influence as Christian men and women at the polls and in the council chamber, for righteousness and truth, we may be able to hinder the progress of sin, and make easier the way of Salvation, yet nothing can avail for the ultimate establishment of righteous rule upon the earth short of the King's personal coming and presence, and that before His advent in power things will become under the leadership of the son of perdition, Anti-Christ, the personified concentration of sin, worse than at any period of the world's past history. In the meantime let us not be idle. If we can keep evil in check, lessen the power of drink, and give freer course to the Gospel; we will be removing obstacles from the way of Salvation, and by hastening the completion of the number of the elect, will be advancing the time when the crisis will develop, and the King Himself appear to establish His millennial reign.

FOR THE SABBATH SCHOOL

CONDUCTED BY S. JOHN DUNCAN-CLARK.

International S. S. Lesson.

LESSON I.—DAVID, KING OF JUDAH—JULY 5.

(2 Sam. ii. 1-11.)

Golden Text—"The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice."—Ps. xcvi. 1.

Central Truth.—God's Anointed.

Analysis.—**R**IGHTHOUS v. 1-3.
RIGHTFUL KING v. 4-7.
RIVAL v. 8-11.*S. S. Illustrator.*

Time and Place.—A. D. 1055, at Hebron twenty miles south of Jerusalem.

Introductory.—Six months have passed since we last studied concerning David; and six years or more stretched between the incident then studied—Jonathan's loving leave-taking—and the present event—David's coronation as King of Judah. When, with tears, Jonathan showed his friend that he was no longer safe in Saul's court he fled, and Jonathan's life was nearly sacrificed by his father's fury over David's escape. From Philistia, where he first sought refuge, David soon returned to Judah, where, in a cave near Adullam, he gathered around him a few hundred adventurers who had tired of Saul's rule. Together they lived by forays on the Philistines, who at this time overran Judah, and by levies made on neighboring towns as the price of David's protection. After a while he marched around the lower end of the Dead Sea and left his aged parents in charge of the King of Moab, with whom, as well as the

King of Ammon and the King of Gath, he kept on friendly terms. When the Philistines and the Israelites got ready for the tremendous struggle which soon ended in the overthrow of Saul and the ruin of the earlier Israelite kingdom, David's position became exceedingly delicate and difficult. He was cast out of the Philistine army although he had been a faithful adherent of the Philistine king, and after adventures of a romantic and picturesque sort he found himself at the head of an army in the southern part of Judah, in the midst of national anarchy, but with a number of fortified towns about him whose leaders were inclined to accept his claims as king. The question arose whether the time had come for him to assert the kingly rights given by Samuel's ordination. This lesson shows how this question was divinely answered, and how David became king over Judah, governing perhaps one third, or a little less than one-third, of the territory which had belonged to Saul.—S. S. Banner.

Verse by Verse.—V. 1. "David enquired of the Lord."—Here at the very outset of David's reign we learn the secret of his success; he was accustomed to seek the Lord's leading and guidance in all matters. Many an anxious doubt and harassing perplexity would vanish like the mists of morning, if we would only seek less the wisdom of men and enquire more of the Lord. Ps. xxvii. 4, lxxviii. 34. Ezek. xxxvi. 37. "Shall I go up?"—How many defeats and humiliations we might be saved were we to ask thus of the Lord concerning every enterprise we think of undertaking. How many victories and crownings we might be led to, were we ever promptly to obey the Lord's command when He says to us "Go up."

V. 2. "So David went up thither."—There is a Hebron to which every Christian is called to go. The word means alliance, and we are summoned to take our place outside the camp, beyond the city walls, in alliance with the Crucified. Ro. xii. 1-2. Eph. v. 18. 1 Co. iii. 16., vi. 17.

V. 3. "His men . . . did David bring up."—Like David we should not be alone when we go up to Hebron. We, too, should strive to take with us our relatives, our friends, and our business associates. "Dwelt in Hebron." Christian reader do you dwell there? The secret of victory is in dwelling in the place of alliance; when we leave the precincts of our spiritual Hebron, we are sure to be met by defeat.

V. 4. "The men of Judah came."—So let us come today if we have never done so before and anoint as king over our lives great David's greater Son.

V. 5. "Blessed be ye of the Lord."—Such were David's generous words of approval to the men of Jabesh-Gilead, who had risked their lives to bury Saul, who had once rescued them from the hands of the Ammonites (1 Sam. xi. 1-11.) In these words we find David the type of Christ in so many ways, evidencing the spirit of the Master expressed in His words when teaching on the mountain side, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you." (Matt. v. 43, 44.) If in those dark days such a spirit of noble forgiveness could be manifested, how much more should we, living under the light and power of the cross, be ready to pardon and forget the slights and injuries of a hostile world. May God drive the bitterness out of our hearts, and fill them with His love!

V. 6. "The Lord show kindness and truth unto you."—God always rewards deeds of love and generosity, with His own rich blessing. We can do no greater good to ourselves than to do all the good we can to other people.

V. 7. "Be ye valiant."—There was need of brave men in Israel, for the King was dead, and the future seemed to be black with threatening disaster. David enjoins courage upon the men of Jabesh-Gilead although they were not men of Judah, and did not come under his present limited sovereignty. But he does not urge his claims to rule upon them, although he had God's promise that he should yet be King of all Israel.

V. 8. "Abner son of Ner."—Saul's first cousin, and commander of the army. He hoped to be able to hold Israel loyal to Saul's son Ishbosheth, and so retain his own position, which under David he would probably forfeit. "Ishbosheth."—Saul's fourth son, a mere tool in the hands of Abner.

V. 8. "Made him King."—Men may make Kings, but it is God who controls them.

V. 10. "Reigned two years."—These two years synchronize with the last two of David's reign. It took Abner some five years of struggling before he succeeded in establishing Ishbosheth's sway over all Israel.