

*The Canadian . . .**Epworth Era*

ORGAN OF THE EPWORTH LEAGUES AND
OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES
IN THE METHODIST CHURCH.

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**Editorial.****The Summer Assembly.**

The usual number of religious gatherings will be held during the coming summer. The Christian Endeavor hosts will assemble at Detroit, the Y.M.C.A. International Convention will be held at Grand Rapids, the Northfield Conferences and School for Bible Study will be under the direction of Mr. Moody as usual, the Baptist Young People's Union will rally at Richmond, Va., and last, but not least, the Epworth League International Convention will be held at Indianapolis.

This blending of vacation and religious assembly is a modern idea. Recognizing the fact that many people are inclined to go somewhere for a change during July and August, these gatherings have been fixed at this time of the year. Instead of being surrounded by the dissipations and follies of the fashionable watering place, Christian people have the delightful privilege of passing a few days in an atmosphere of religious inspiration and enthusiasm which sends them back to their work with strengthened purpose and renewed zeal. A holiday thus occupied is much more valuable than one spent in absolute idleness.

The Indianapolis Convention.

On another page Rev. Dr. Lasby, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the International Epworth League Convention, sends greeting to Canadian Leaguers, and extends a cordial invitation for them to attend the convention in large numbers. The worthy Doctor, who, by the way, is an old Canadian himself, puts the figures rather high when he suggests an attendance of 5,000 from the Dominion; but we certainly ought to aim at one-tenth of that number. The journey is short, the convention city is beautiful, and the programme unusually attractive.

The only objection to Indianapolis as a convention city that we have heard is that it might be very warm in the month of July. Of course we are liable to strike a hot wave during the summer no matter where we are. Even in Muskoka there are days that are very oppressive. Rev. Dr. Schell assures us from personal experience that it is no hotter, in Indianapolis in July than it is in Toronto, and Rev. Dr. Lasby says that "The record, as kept by the United States government for the past twenty-eight years, shows an average for July 20-23 of only seventy-four and one-half degrees. Anything cooler than that is scarcely comfortable in midsummer." Let us do our best to have Canada properly represented at this great gathering.

The Most Popular Book.

Some of the leading booksellers of the United States are in the habit of publishing, each month, a statement showing the best selling books. It is interesting to note how one book succeeds another in popular favor. No one volume remains at the head of the list more than a month or two. A short time ago "Quo Vadis" was all the rage, and its sales were enormous. To-day we hear very little of it. The book of the hour just now is "David Harum," which is coming from the press in tens of thousands. Probably it, too, will have its day. But there is one book which never loses its popularity, and whose sales keep up with surprising regularity. Fully ten million copies of the Bible are circulated every year, and the demand for it is an ever-increasing one. Take the six best read books of the year and their combined circulation is not more than one-tenth of the number of bibles that are scattered abroad.

It is an encouraging sign of the times that so many people are studying the book of books.

The Social Department.

What a variety of correspondence finds its way into this office! One brother writes that, in his opinion, our young people's societies run too much to entertainment, and the social department is unduly exalted. The same mail brings a letter from the prominent pastor of a city church who thinks that "the League should be more devoted to social and entertainment work than it is at present, in order to checkmate Satan and his hosts, and save the thousands of young people who cannot be reached but through these avenues."

Probably both our correspondents are right. In some places the tendency to develop the social element needs to be slightly repressed, but in others, undoubtedly it ought to be stimulated. It should be understood, however, that the social department is not intended merely for the enjoyment of the members, but should bear directly upon the object of our organization—the salvation of souls. In all our towns and cities there is a great work for it to do.

The Anti-Climax.

According to the rules of oratory anti-climax is a sudden decrease in the importance of what is said, or a very weak passage following immediately upon a strong one. Convention programmes are frequently so arranged that something of this kind often occurs. When a very eloquent speaker has brought the audience up to a condition of great enthusiasm it is a painful anti-climax to have a common place address read in a monotonous voice, and without life or spirit. Programme builders should so plan that the interest shall gradually intensify, and the climax come at the close.

Sometimes we have, in our church work, reactions very similar to the anti-climax, when a rousing revival is followed by a period of total inactivity, or when an energetic winter campaign is succeeded by a summer vacation in which absolutely nothing is done for "Christ and the Church." Whether in speaking or working the anti-climax is a good thing to avoid.

It costs something to travel, of course, but it pays. The horizon of the man who always stays at home becomes exceedingly narrow and he himself, in time gets into a pretty small shell. Travel is a liberal education. It opens one's eyes to what is going on in the big world. The money thus spent is not wasted by any means.

"You pay your money, and take your choice," and if you want to go to the same place for vacation year after year nobody can prevent you, but you miss the charm of new sights and scenes. By going in a different direction each summer a wide knowledge of the country would soon be obtained. Take the trip to Indianapolis next month and see one of the most beautiful cities in America.

The items of information on China which appeared in our last issue, with the exception of one by Rev. B. F. Horton, were taken from Rev. Dr. Ross's book, "One Hundred Years of Missions," which is a treasury of missionary information that should be in every Leaguer's hands.

We have been asked by a number of Leagues to publish the names of their newly elected officers, but have been forced to decline. If we publish the list for one society it will have to be done for all who ask it, and to do this would occupy several pages of our paper, and we have not the space. Your local newspaper will be glad to publish the names of your new officers.

All honor to brave Ex-Governor Atkinson, of Georgia, who stood in the face of the howling mob and appealed to them to observe the law. He might as well have reasoned with a cyclone, and yet his action showed courage of the highest kind. Mr. Atkinson will be remembered as the Chairman of the great patriotic meeting at the Exhibition grounds during the International League Convention at Toronto, in 1897.