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## EDITORIAL

SAMUEL T. BARTLETT - - Editor  
WILLIAM BRIGGS - - Publisher

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—Luck lies abed in the morning and 'bemoans its hard lot, but labor turns out at sunrise and rejoices in a competence.

—The eye that is open to opportunity for doing good will keep the hand busy in daily deeds of kindness, if only the heart be right.

—Not in telling others what to do, so much as in showing them how by your own actions does the effectiveness of personal influence lie.

—If you would like a sample copy of our January number mailed to any of your friends who is not now a subscriber, send us the names and addresses and we will do the rest.

—During the holiday festivities when fun and frolic, frivolity and feasting, are likely to hold high carnival, remember that the devil has plenty of husks, and that there are always plenty of swine to eat them.

—Remember, that a year's subscription to this paper costs but fifty cents; and we doubt if you can find as big a fifty cents worth elsewhere to give to any of your young friends as a Christmas box. The monthly visits of the Era throughout 1910 will be a periodical reminder of your regard, and you will thus make Christmas extend through all the year. Try it and make somebody twelve times happy.

Before our next issue reaches you your Christmas celebrations will have been held. May they bring brightness into your life, and through your agency may much joy be dispensed to others. In the most sincere and cordial spirit we wish you A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS!

—The Lord wants money, the church needs cash; but remember that both want you first. The only true basis of acceptable giving is self-giving, as Paul records of the Macedonian Christians: "they first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God." Money giving that is not the proof of self-giving is a purely mercenary or commercial transaction that is lacking the vital element of love before God.

—We have only one assurance to give our readers concerning our paper for next year, and that is that we will do our best to make each succeeding number an improvement on the one preceding. There will be changes in the arrangement of the paper commencing with the January issue. Just what these shall be we leave you to find out by consulting that number, which we will endeavor to have mailed in good time for the New Year.

—If you have not yet learned of our next year's Topics, enquire about them. That correspondence course in the Teachings of Jesus ought to interest you. It will cost you nothing but a two-cent stamp once a quarter, and the benefits gained by following the studies through the year will be very helpful to you. Look up our Department of Bible Study in this issue. All you need is a New Testament and a copy of this paper to equip you for the course.

—One thing we have asked of our Leagues, namely, a club order for this paper. If it is to be a real help to our young workers we want it widely distributed among them. Instead of making the paper depend on individual subscribers for support, we prefer that leagues shall order it in quantities, paying for it in whole or in part from the league treasury, and then use them among the members where they may do the most good. Give us a larger subscription list and we will give you a better paper. Both editor and publisher will do the best possible to give every subscriber the largest half-dollar's worth of the kind obtainable anywhere.

### Be Good!—for Something!

The staple subject of Sunday School addresses when the writer was a boy was "Be good!" We were invariably taught that to be good was the sum total of human duty. Just what that meant was not always plain; but there were the two emphatic words standing out clear in almost every Sunday School appeal, and not infrequently was there appended an awful word of warning—"Be Good,—or —"

We have no reflections to make on this teaching. It bore fruit, and its results are still in evidence; but we have noticed that the tendency of to-day is to give practical guidance to those who would "be good" that they may become "good for something." Is this not much better? And is there much hope of our children and youth retaining their goodness unless they hold and develop it by exercise? We want piety, but pious people who are not practical in work for God are neither very ornamental nor useful.

It is told that on one occasion an admirer said to Cromwell: "You, sir, know well the usefulness of piety," and that the active old Puritan replied promptly, "I know some thing better,—the piety of usefulness." It is this kind of piety that the church needs. There are plenty of people who want to "be good"—in their own way, and are content to sit quiet and still in the Sanctuary while there are wrongs to be righted, evils to be destroyed, and great principles to be maintained in the life of the nation. It may give such people a comfortable feeling to "belong to the Church," but they would be better Christians in every way if they did something to bear the burdens of others and help bring about a state of life that would argue the coming Millennium.

Good people are numerous, but useful people are less common. Simple, daily, practical usefulness, prompted by hearty love to God and social charity to men, makes the kind of saint God delights in. The church, the home, the nation, all are crying out for people who are both good and good for something. Is your League producing such?

### Hurried Preparation

Said an experienced League leader to the writer recently, "I have been pained many times at the hurried preparation of some of our young people for the League meeting." And then she went on to tell of instances where just before meeting time the Era, or some similar help, would be snatched up, and something read from the columns when the topic was being presented.

There is too little real preparation for the meeting. Consequently, many meetings lack interest and power. They bear the marks of superficiality and fail to grip. The members go away without being fed, and if they come again, do so not because of an expectant interest, but from a sense of duty.

It does not cost our average leader enough in preparation for the meeting. A young preacher once boasted to an older minister of having prepared a sermon in half an hour, preached it at once, and thought nothing of it. The experienced preacher simply replied: "In that your hearers were one with you, for they thought nothing of it too."

Some things may have to be done in a hurry; but hurried preparation for duty is seldom one of them. Work that is worth while calls for careful planning, deliberate study, and much time in beforehand arrangement. This is as true of your League as of anything else, and if you are content to carry its meetings on in "any old way" you may be sure that they will degenerate in character until only "a corporal's guard" will attend, and before long a League funeral will be in order.

But if you will pay the price of bright, attractive, and pro-