

THE CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA

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

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REV. A. C. CREWS, - - Editor.
REV. WILLIAM BRIGGS, Publisher.

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Editorial.

The Canadian Epworth Era wishes all its friends
A happy Christmas. May the season
bring to young
and old pleasant memories and bright anticipations,
and may the lives of all be flooded with joy.

"What's the Use?"

Not long ago we met a lady on the street who expressed herself very strongly in appreciation of this paper, and then added:

"But then, what's the use of having a good League paper if the young people of our societies do not get it?"

Quite right! The editor may work hard and prepare a bright readable paper that is calculated to stimulate every part of our League work, but of what value is it if the members do not see it? District and local Leagues officers, pastors, and especially our regular subscribers, should help to make the efforts of the EPWORTH ERA efficient by enlarging its constituency. Show your good will to our paper by securing at least one new subscriber for the new year.

War News as a Demoralizer

War is the great brutalizer. Next to the demoralization which it works in the combatants is the demoralization which it works in the public who read the war news. Men of tender feelings, women who turn sick at the sight of a mangled limb soon learn to gloat over scenes in which human slaughter is carried on wholesale.

For this reason we can only feebly sympathize with the correspondent who finds it hard to get a detailed battle piece through to his paper. The less the average man dwells upon the gruesome particulars of a battle the better. It is a mistake to suppose that we learn to hate war by becoming familiar with its worst features. Supping on horrors does not make for moral sensibility. Far otherwise. For, after the first shock is over, the lust of battle comes upon the reader as it does upon the soldier; and a man finds himself revelling in descriptions and pictures of distorted faces, torn limbs, dismembered bodies and garments rolled in blood. The passion grows by what it feeds on until, after a while, the more lurid and gory the picture the better. Such a course of reading served up daily produces a callousness which is all the more to be deplored because it is not realized. The presence of the war correspondent at the front undoubtedly stimulates "the amenities of war" on both sides, but his cablegrams are not

conducive to high thinking or noble living on the part of his readers. Few things are more painful from the viewpoint of the moralist than the sight of a *blasé* generation seeking to stimulate its jaded nerves by devouring highly colored, and in some cases highly imaginative, accounts of the awful scenes enacted under the guns of Port Arthur or in the trenches of Liaoyang.

Perhaps it is asking too much to require anyone to neglect the press despatches on the day after a great battle, but we offer it as a counsel of perfection that on ordinary days a man should content himself with the head-lines and such a summary of war news as many of our best papers present.

The Child's Prayer

In the October number of this paper we referred on the editorial page to the child's prayer, "Now I lay me down to sleep," and said that it was only suitable for children as there was so much "I" and "my" in it. Now there comes a letter from one of our subscribers, who expresses his opinion as follows:

"I want to enter an earnest protest against the editorial paragraph on the child's prayer. You say that it is only fit for children because there is so much 'I' in it. I think you must have written that without thinking. Is the aged Christian not to pray for himself? Is he to be indifferent regarding his own safety and purity? I think not."

This simply shows the importance of qualifying and explaining even the simplest statement. It never occurred to us that any reader would so misunderstand the item referred to. Of course, we never meant to suggest that it was improper for the adult Christian to pray for himself. The application was that the juvenile prayer was not suited to the full grown Christian because *exclusively* concerned with "number one." In addition to praying for himself, the true follower of Christ, will take a large outlook and include the interests of others, even of the whole world in his petition. If it had been amplified a little more this is exactly how the paragraph would have read.

One Fatal Defect

Is Japan entitled to rank with the occidental nations as a great civilized power? Thousands of her admirers in Europe and America are ready to answer emphatically, "Yes." In support of their contention they refer us to Japan's marvellous advancement during the past forty years. They point to the constitutional form of her government; to the excellence of her system of jurisprudence; to the comprehensive character of her school system; to the ingenuity shown in her railways, telegraphs and post offices; to the enterprise displayed in connection with her growing industries and her expanding mercantile marine; and, above all, the efficiency and valor of her splendid army and navy, and to the humanity shown to her enemy's wounded and to the Russian prisoners taken in war.

These things certainly make an imposing list of strong points; but a fatal weakness is revealed in that, in enumerating Japanese excellencies, not much can be said of the status of her women or the character of her home life.

The question arises can the highest type of manhood be developed where womanhood, as such, is not held in highest honor? Just here we touch the sore spot, the plague spot, in Japanese life. Neither the wives nor mothers nor daughters of that country receive the honor that is every woman's due. Dr. Leonard, of New York, has stated that during his entire stay in Japan he never saw a non-Christian married couple walking or talking together as equals. According to the