

reflex influence will help to develop a healthy Christian character in the child. In this connection, teaching the children to *earn* what they give, is most important. Christ's cause is not a mendicant whining for charity, and should not be sustained by a system of begging. Its claims are paramount, and should be a first charge upon our possessions, and we should always act upon David's principle, "Neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing." A brother in the Guelph Conference is teaching this principle to the children with good results, as the following letter will show:—

HENSALL, ONT., February 22nd.

On October 3rd, 1891, several of the children in my class that meets on Saturday afternoon from four to five o'clock, took five cents each to make what they could until Christmas. These children are from eight to thirteen years of age. I send a few of the letters telling how they made their money, to be published, if you choose, in *OUTLOOK*, as they may prove helpful to other children who may wish to do something in the same way for the missionary cause. Fifteen brought in \$16.77 at Christmas.

Fraternally yours,

H. S. MAGEE.

Here are some of the letters:—

"I started first at making iron-holders, and I did very well with them; but I got tired making them. Then I started to make some snowballs, and then I made some taffy. Altogether I made \$1.05; I felt so glad I did not bury my talent, like the man in the Bible."

"I only made paper flowers, and I got sixty-six cents; that's all."

"At first I made tissue-paper flowers, and sold them; then I made pop-corn balls, and altogether made one dollar."

"At first I felt discouraged, not knowing what to do, so my Ma told me she would make taffy for me, and I made \$1.05. I did it all for Jesus."

"First I took my five cents and bought carpet rags, and sold the balls for ten cents each; then I bought cotton and made handkerchiefs, which I sold at eight cents each, and made \$1.05."

"In the first place I borrowed another five cents, bought material, and made a lamp-mat, and sold it; then I bought sugar and made taffy, and paid back what I owed. I kept on selling taffy till I made the amount of \$4.40, which I handed to you."

THE EPWORTH LEAGUE AND MISSIONS.

A paper read at the Stratford Missionary Convention by REV. JOSIAH GREENE.

WE have come to a time when the cause of missions must receive the best attention and heartiest support of the *entire* Church, a time when every available element should be utilized in spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world.

Until within a few years past, the work of the Missionary Society was confined principally to the older people. Lately, however, the services of the children have been enlisted

as collectors, and they have been doing successful work. Still, a large and very vital part of the Church's life remained comparatively untouched. In the slumbering energies of our young people there lay vast accumulations of power, which only awaited the fitting opportunity to leap forth and develop into a noble army of consecrated Methodist crusaders.

The organization of the Epworth League provides for and contemplates the promotion of an earnest, intelligent, practical and loyal spiritual life in the young people of our Church, with the view of making them successful Christian workers. And I think we have, in the name which has been selected, and the motto chosen, the true missionary idea. The *real* Epworth Leaguers are those who in deepest humility, with longing desire and implicit faith, look up "right into the face of the transfigured Christ," until seeing "Jesus only," they are changed into the same image; then, with burning hearts and beaming faces they come down from the mount to reflect the divine glory in lifting others up to the same blessed experience. Thus, to my mind, this youthful movement opens up a wide and deep channel for the outflowing of boundless streams of loving Christly benevolence, while it throws upon us the tremendous responsibility of making it a potent auxiliary to our Missionary Society. Some suggestions as to how this result may be secured:

1. As in the directions for cooking the hare, "you must first catch it," so here. We, as ministers and officials, require to take vigorous steps in the organization of these forces. This work requires much patience and perseverance; there are difficulties to be overcome,—difficulties which lie frequently with the young people themselves. They are backward and timid. Many of them are quite strangers to any kind of systematic work, etc., but this state of things will soon disappear when once the work is started. Then there will arise in some places, it may be, a feeling of jealousy on the part of the older people. We must be wise in our management. The reasonable claims of the old must not be ignored; at the same time ample scope must be given for the fullest play of youthful activity. There must be no collision, there need be none, for we are one; and it is the harmonious blending of these two elements which, under God, constitute the beauty and symmetry and strength of the Church.

2. We should make the missionary cause a *distinctive* part of the Epworth League work. This the Constitution very clearly recognizes, by providing for the appointment of a missionary committee and the recommendation of courses of reading bearing specially upon missionary work. It will not do to assume that, because the underlying principle of the organization is missionary, therefore, it will necessarily work in that direction. We must *push* it. Let the members of that committee be carefully and judiciously selected, and give them work to do. In this connection I suggest a liberal interspersing of purely missionary topics into the ordinary meetings of the League. Take, for example, "Our Foreign Missions," "Our Japan Mission," "Our Indian Missions," etc.

Again, much might be done by open meetings and monthly prayer-meetings; and let the missionary committee prepare the programme. At these special meetings there might be a silver collection or small entrance fee for missionary purposes. However, the great object is the impartation of information, and the awakening of missionary enthusiasm.

The literary committee of the League can greatly increase the efficiency of the Society on this line by encouraging the systematic reading of Methodist History. As the Epworth League contemplates a more intimate association of young Methodists, and inasmuch as Methodism is essentially