

SUBJECT: YOUNG PEOPLE'S FORWARD MOVEMENT FOR MISSIONS.



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The Epworth League Pledge.*

BY ANNIE D. STEPHENSON.

Tune—56 or 83 "Canadian Hymnal."

Taking Christ as my example,
By the Spirit's power
I will do my Father's will
Every hour.

Daily I God's Word will study,
His will would know,
And aside with God in prayer
Daily go.

I will give myself for service
In the Church and League,
And from God, for every duty,
Strength receive.

I will honor with my substance
God who giveth all,
And for blessing on my pleasures
On Him call.

Living Christ in word and deed,
I will try to bring
Others to the joy of serving
Christ, my King.

The Origin and Development of the Students' Missionary Campaign.

THE origin of the Students' Missionary Campaign for a Young People's Forward Movement for Missions may be traced in two directions. When the General Conference of our Church launched the Epworth League, with its Missionary Department, they prepared the way for the movement, and practically appointed the officers and called for volunteers to fall into line.

While the League was being organized, the Students' Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions operating in our universities and colleges, by "prayer and study," had aroused a great missionary enthusiasm, and led a larger number of students to volunteer for foreign mission work than the finances of our Mission Board could send forth and sustain.

What seemed to be needed was that the same plan of "prayer and study" which led our students to give their lives be introduced into our Epworth League. In other words, that the students should appeal to the members of the

Epworth League to volunteer to "Pray, Study, and Give," under the direction of the officers already appointed by the Church.

During the winter of 1894-95, a volunteer for the foreign field from Trinity Medical College visited the Missionary Conference held at Victoria College. On invitation, he spoke briefly on the possibilities of a great work being accomplished if the students interested in missions would organize and go forth to our young people, presenting the need of the heathen, and call for a Young People's Forward Movement to aid our Church in sending forth the volunteers. The Conference immediately appointed a committee to write a circular letter to all Methodist students asking them to unite in an appeal to our Young People. The letter was carefully prepared and submitted to our General Secretary of Missions, Dr. Sutherland, for his approval. The following quotation will show the spirit and import of the letter: "Our plan is to inaugurate a missionary campaign during the summer months, to be carried on by each college man in his own neighborhood, and in each of these centres, however narrow the limits, to seek to arouse an intelligent interest in missions."

Dr. Sutherland's attitude may be judged from the following foot note which he added to the letter.

"TORONTO, March 26th, 1895.

"I have pleasure in commending the above circular letter to the notice of our ministers, and of all friends of our missionary work. The young people of Methodism are astir; more and more their interest is centering on the world's evangelization, and there should be an outlet for their consecrated enthusiasm. These young workers ask for no remuneration, they ask only to plead the cause of a perishing world, and thus to help the coming of the Lord's Kingdom.

(Signed) A. SUTHERLAND.

FIRST SUMMER.

During the summer of 1895, many earnest missionary addresses were given and some missionary literature sold. One campaigner visited a number of Leagues on the Cobourg District, and by the kind co-operation of the pastors and Rev. A. C. Crews, General Secretary of the Epworth League, succeeded in uniting the Leagues of the District in an effort to raise enough money for the support of a missionary under the direction of the General Board of Missions. Pledge and Collectors' books were prepared, and nearly all the Leagues on the Cobourg District started on the "Pray, Study, Give" plan.

During the college year of 1895-96, plans were pushed ahead apace. After careful study of the needs of the work it was found necessary to have a central correspondent, to whom requests for campaigners from Leagues might be sent, and to whom students might write offering to do campaign work.

* Duplicates of this hymn may be had free by writing to F. C. Stephenson, 505 Parliament Street, Toronto.