

We are told that McCauley was a great reader at the age of three, and that Mrs. Browning at the age of eight was as familiar with Homer in the original, as she was happy with her doll. It is a sad reflection, but a true one, that some of us know as much at the age of eighteen as we do in later years.

Among the greatest men of action we recall Frederick's love of letters, the Lincoln's passion for books, and Napoleon's travelling library. Among the politicians we think of Pitt's sofa with its sheet of thumbed classics, and of Fox exchanging with tears his books and his garden for the House of Commons with its strife of tongues. We could dwell also on the names of Walpole, Peel, Disraeli and Gladstone—the latter who is often spoken of as "The Christian Scholar in Politics."

Do we read and study and ask God's blessing that our minds may become a precious possession to man, and by 'is use we would be enriched, and God glorified? It was Wesley's counsel to "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, and as long as ever you can."

Emerson remarks, "It is easy to accuse books, but ones are easily found." The best are but records, and so it is for the most part they work no redemption in us. But it is true, there are books which take rank in our life with parents and lovers and passionate experiences.

We owe to books those general benefits which come from highly intellectual action. So with mean people; live with them and you think life is mean, then read Plutarch and the world is a proud place. As whole nations have derived their culture from a single book—as the Bible has been the literature as well as the religion of the large portions of Europe—so perhaps the human mind would be a gainer if all the secondary writers were lost, because it is only in the best circles that the better information is gained. Emerson believed that "the scholar was a favorite of heaven and earth, the excellency of his country and the happiest of men."

"For wise men," Hillis remarks, "the joys of reading are life's crowning pleasures, books are our universities where souls are the Professors. Books are some-times spoken of as mental machines. They enable the mind of man to reap in many harvest fields, and multiply the mental treasures." It was Milton who said, "The book is the life blood of the master-spirit."

We have books upon books, but apart from and above all others is the Bible. Alone it has civilized whole nations. It is the one book that can fully lead forth the richest and deepest and sweetest things in our own nature. Thayer well says that "for paths of narrative; for incidents that go directly to the heart; for the picturesque in character and manner; for copiousness, grandeur and closeness of reading; for irresistible force of persuasion and practical value, no book in the world deserves to be so increasingly studied as the Bible."

How important it is that great taste and care should be shown in making a careful selection for life is not "what we make it" so much as what makes us.

Carlyle thought that was our grand business in life, "not to see what lies dimly at a distance, but what is clearly before us."

As young people we may well give heed to the words of Dr. Hillis: "If any man be strong let him work; if any man be wise let him observe and think; if any man be happy let him help; and if influential let him sacrifice and serve." Without sacrifice there is no success. Doing is better than seeming, giving better than getting, stooping to serve better than climbing toward the throne. Then let us unfurl our Epworth League motto: "Look up and Lift up, for Christ and the Church." Henry Drummond in his book "The Greatest thing in the World," says "Thank God, that the Christianity of to-

Convention Decorations for Leagues

Realizing the need for suitable and sufficient decorations for our League work, we recommended the expenditure of sufficient money to procure a number of suitable emblems, mottoes, and such like, for use at conventions and other League gatherings. The General Board authorized the purchase, and we have had a start made. These banners, etc., were used for the first time at the Cornwall Convention, and were then passed on to the London Conference Convention at Blenheim. Just how they helped make the Convention church at Cornwall attractive may be seen from the picture of the church on another page. The



ANOTHER CONVENTION GROUP AT CORNWALL, OCTOBER 7.

day is coming nearer the world's need." As Leaguers we must live to make its influence universal, as men's hearts everywhere resound with the call of the loving voice of God. In Him alone is abundant life for evermore.

"What do they know of life, who only see the form of things
And not the heart?
What do they know of love, who merely kiss the lips and cheeks
And not the soul?
What do they know of life and love to whom there never speaks
The voice of God?"

"Tied to the sordid task of self, they see no vision bright
And wise their lot.
Bound by the sickly pride of self they miss the only prize,
There is no gain.
Sunk in the slush and dirt of lust bereft of true light
They grope their way.
Lost in the cave of hell's despair they have no open eyes
To see their God.

"Be wise, and turning from the shape and size of earthly things,
O seek the heart.
Be true, and never merely kiss the rosy lip or cheek,
But kiss the soul.
Be calm, and living thro' the depths of life, the angel's wings
Shall round you come.
Be good, and knowing well both life and love to you will speak
The voice of God."

It has been impossible to publish in this number all the reports of District Conventions that have been held. A number of these are all ready in type; but are necessarily held over until our next issue.

mottoes were striking and much commented on during the sessions, and enquiries made as to their cost.

These are all the property of the General Board and at the service of any of our Leagues who may desire to use them. The only cost will be the express charges on the parcel to and from the Central Office. We desire to add to the number already printed, and will be glad to receive suggestions as to the matter. If you have some original thought-provoking sentence, short and to the point, that you would like to see used as a wall decoration, kindly send it to the General Secretary. And if the Epworth Leagues will be a bit more generous in their annual offering to the General Fund, we will seek to provide much more abundantly for general use in this and other ways than has ever been attempted in the past. If you want the mottoes, write the General Secretary, and if they are not in use you are free to utilize them with your own flags and bunting in adding popularity and point to your various gatherings.

Reports have incidentally reached us of splendid Epworth League Anniversaries in many churches. This is as it should be. The local society is deserving of prominence, at least once a year, and pastors and presidents may wisely combine to give the League at least as much publicity in the congregation as fraternal societies seek almost universally, annually. We shall be glad to receive items of interest from Leagues holding such anniversaries or rallies locally. Indirectly we know of splendid services of this nature in numerous places. We want first hand information, please. Send in your reports.

I cannot consent, as your queen, to take revenue from the sale of liquor, which destroys the souls and bodies of my subjects.—Queen of Madagascar.