

All this means work—work for Christ, the Church and Canada. God calls for workers upon whom He can depend, workers who realize that they are responsible to Him for the use of these great opportunities.

Are you not proud to belong to a society whose aim is so high, whose work is so noble, and whose leader is Jesus Christ?

What of the future? Who can tell what the united forces of our Epworth Leagues and other Young People's Societies can and will do when we eagerly and enthusiastically answer the call, and follow our Leader in loving, loyal obedience?

Let us be ambitious to do our best and make our lives count "for Christ, the Church and Canada," and a world-wide evangelism.

"We'll bring Him our time and our talents,

We'll bring Him a heart service sweet,

We'll bring Him our best and our brightest,

Our all we will lay at His feet."

### Weekly Topic Calendar

AUGUST 15.—DAVID'S SONG OF VICTORY. 2 Sam.: 22.

The fourth of the series of "Masterpieces of Hebrew Literature," which we are studying on our Literary and Social evenings during the current League year, will be found on page 176. You will find it most instructive, and under the skilful guidance of Mr. Lennox you should enjoy a rich treat in the study of the Scripture. The Third Vice-President may easily make ample provision for a delightful presentation of the Topic with Mr. Lennox's splendid article to work from.

AUG. 25.—UNDERMINING THE HOME.—Ephesians 5: 22; 6: 9.

This subject is dealt with on page 177. After carefully reading chapter four of "My Neighbor," and following Dr. McArthur's article, you will begin to grasp the seriousness of the problems involved. In your meeting a Round Table discussion of the question, not only in general, but as it relates to your own community, should be in order, and prove profitable.

SEPT. 1.—THE MIDNIGHT FRIEND AND THE IMPORTUNATE WIDOW.

—Luke 11: 5-13; 18: 1-8.

On page 174 you will find this Topic dealt with under the heading, "Does God Answer Prayer?" Whatever else you are not able to treat in this September consecration meeting, be sure to emphasize the vital fact that it is the practice of prayer rather than a study of its philosophy that we most need. Start a Prayer Circle in your League if you have not one already, and pledge your members to observe the Morning Watch.

SEPT. 8.—THE CALL FOR MISSIONARY LEADERSHIP. Romans 10: 10-17; Jer. 1: 6-10.

At the foot of the first column on page 175, where you will find Mrs. Stephenson's article on this important Topic, you will see a suggestive note regarding your Missionary Meeting. On the Editorial pages you may also find some help in your own study, as well as in preparing for your public service. You surely have a wealth of material before you in this issue on this great subject of Leadership.



## Life Talks With Young Men

BY ONE OF THEMSELVES



**D**O you ever get away off alone, and, shutting out the outside world, just think, and think, and think? If you don't, you ought to. It is a wonderful, useful practice, and one which might be cultivated with profit.

Some people do not appreciate their own company. They do not like to be alone with their thoughts. There are times when, if we are honest, our thoughts will give us uncomfortable moments. But that is a good sign, and when we get it all straightened out, our lives are sure to be bigger and richer because of these alone thoughts.

Every man needs a time when he can be alone to think. He cannot give out continually without refilling. If he gets with a sense of our own importance, and we get into a rut so deep that he'll stick. Have we stuck? If we have, let us make a mighty effort to get started again, for none of us should want to be stickers.

Now I suppose the first question that comes to your mind is, "What shall we think about?" I answer, ourselves. We are going to sit down and look at the "genus homo" in his proper aspect. We are going to talk things over with ourselves. We are going to do some straight, serious thinking. And when we get through we are going to have a sense of our own importance, and, I hope, go out to live bigger, broader and more sympathetic lives.

That seems to centre a good deal around the "ego," doesn't it? Well, that strikes me as a pretty good point from which to start. Our lives should begin with ourselves, and then extend outward. Some lives start in self and seem to work inward. Let us keep the motion going outward, but let us be sure it emanates from a true and unselfish purpose and from an intelligent conception of ourselves and our relationships.

When a man sits down to think about himself—not his troubles, not his condition, not the circumstances which surround him, but just himself—about the first thing that strikes him is how small he is, a mere atom of humanity, one amid millions; and too often that thought overwhelms him and he gets no farther. There is a better thought than that. Good old Abe Lincoln used to say "that God must have loved the common people or He would never have made so many of them." Can you be small and insignificant when God made you and God loves you? You—man—the only creature on which He has stamped His own image, in which He has placed the hope of immortality, to whom He has revealed Himself. Not as a product of the Divine mind you are great. Every man in every condition is great. It is only his diseased sight which makes him little. A man is great as a man, be he where or what he may. His power of intellect, of conscience, of knowing God, of perceiving the beautiful, of acting by his own resolve, on outward nature and on his fellow-creatures—these are glorious prerogatives. Man's relation to God, his Father, and to his fellow-men, his brothers, make him great—the greatest being in the universal creation of an Omnipotent Creator.

I am not going to preach on the great themes of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. They are great themes to talk about and to think over, but greater and grander still to live by. This is the thought. Man! you are a being of relationships. You cannot get away from it. Your common origin

makes it so. You cannot live unto yourself. You cannot die unto yourself. You are a part of a vast system inaugurated and maintained by God Almighty, and as such you are great. Are you becoming impressed yet with a sense of your own importance? You dare not hide it from yourself, nor deny it.

Take a bee and separate it from its hive relations, and it loses its identity. It dies, not from hunger, but from loneliness. It has been separated from its natural conditions. Separate man from his fellows and he loses his identity. His growth ceases. In a sense he dies. The greatest badge of a man's sanity is his ability to cooperate and to sympathize with his fellow-men. His personal life is rooted in the life of humanity; it flourishes in that soil and draws its richest nourishment from it. Man comes to perfection only in and through fellowship.

The great trouble with most men is to get them to really appreciate their true greatness. I feel there is a possibility of that statement being misunderstood, and that arises from a wrong conception of greatness. One writer says: "The truly great are to be found everywhere. Real greatness has nothing to do with a man's sphere. It does not lie in the magnitude of his outward agency, in the extent of the effects which he produces. Grandeur of character lies wholly in the force of soul—that is, in the force of thought, moral principle and love, and this may be found in the humblest conditions of life."

You can elaborate this thought and verify it in your lives. Realize that you are great because God made you and God loves you; that life is a matter of relationships Godward and manward; that those who surround you are necessary to your growth; and that Christianity will help you solve the whole problem of relationship. Apart from human life to act upon; apart from the relation of men with one another, there can be no such thing as Christianity. Growth in grace and progress of character are to be measured by the degree in which one has fulfilled the relationships of his being Godward and manward. A man's relations to his fellow-men are only truly measured by his relations with God his Father.

The thought of relationships is the thought of present-day Christianity. The days of the monk's cell and the devotee's closet are past. To-day you must play a whole man's part in the social world, and take an interest in whatever concerns man. You must touch the lives next to you. Christ's life was one of contact and relationship, and he who would be Christ-like must live with and for his fellows if he would approach nearest to the thought of God.

A parish priest of austerity  
Climbed up to his high church steeple  
To be nearer God; so that he might hand  
His word down to the people.

And in sermon script he daily wrote  
What he thought was sent from  
And he dropped it down on the people's  
head  
Two times one day in seven.

In his age God said, "Come down and  
live."  
And he cried from out the steeple,  
"Where art thou, Lord?" And the Lord  
replied,  
"Down here among My people."