

THE CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA

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The Snowdrift.

When night dropped down, the fields
were dark and dun,
Storm sprites were out—we heard the
north wind blow;

Then when arose the slowly wading sun,
Morning came mantled in a robe of
snow.

White grew the landscape; every field
and knoll
Shone forth transfigured by the snow-
storm's spell;

The trees and fences stood in motley droll,
Half dark, half whitened, by this
miracle.

But where the stone wall held its Parian
weight
Of snowdrift, like some Alp or Apen-
nine,

We saw a sculpture man could not create
Smoothed off and chiselled by some
touch divine.

Here plinth and cornice, architrave and
frieze,

Lift up a beauty to the day and sun,
Amidst the silver of the tinselled trees,
That never Phidias or Canova won.

—Joel Benton, in "Country Life in
America."

Renew! Renew!—Dear reader, have
you renewed your subscription to the
EPWORTH ERA for 1903 yet? It costs
money to publish a paper like this, and it
can only be done successfully by having
a large circle of readers who pay promptly
in advance.

The Books in Demand.—The two
kinds of religious books that are having
the greatest sale just now are those
relating to Bible study, and missions.
There is something encouraging in this
statement.

A Great Subscription.—What a fine
thing it is to have a church like Sher-
bourne Street, Toronto, to strike the key-
note of advance when the denunciation
enters upon any aggressive work! Upon
a recent Sunday this congregation sub-
scribed \$10,000 to the Missionary Fund.
This ought to be a stimulus to others.

He Made a Mistake.—Voltaire, in
supreme satisfaction over his attack on
the Bible, wrote, "In less than a hundred
years Christianity will be swept from ex-
istence, and have passed into history."
More than one hundred years have passed,
and it is Voltaire's attack upon Christi-
anity that is remembered only as a matter
of history.

The International Convention.

The date for our International Epworth
League Convention was fixed for July
16th-19th, in Detroit, but there are
several other Conventions booked for that
week, which will more than crowd the
hotels and boarding houses. The proba-
bilities are that another time will be se-
lected for our gathering, which will be
announced as soon as possible.

Strike in Anywhere.—During the
Civil War a Union general, bringing
reinforcements at the height of a great
battle, is said to have asked where he
should place his troops. "Oh, any-
where!" was the reply; "there's lovely
fighting all along the line!" The soldier
of Christ who says that he cannot find
any place for service is really not very
anxious to get into the fray. There are
plenty of opportunities for willing souls,
"all along the line."

Preachers' Sons to the Front.—
Rev. Dr. Mills, who is in charge of the
Twentieth Century Fund in the United
States, says: "One feature of the work
which has struck me with peculiar force,
is the wonderful part played by the sons
of Methodist clergymen. We have found
them, these boys of the parsonage—east,
west, north and south—now grown into
men of wealth, ready and eager to give
to the cause. The father of one man
who gave us \$400,000 was a poor Meth-
odist clergyman, whose largest salary was
\$400 a year. The son is worth \$20,000,
000 to-day, and with one stroke of his
pen has given to the Church what his
father would have earned in 1,000 years."

The Bright Side.—There is a good
deal of sound sense in the words of a
leading character in "The Honorable
Peter Sterling," a popular American
romance: "Let me give you a little advice.
As you go through life, look for the fine
things; not for the despicable. It won't
make you any richer. It won't make
you famous. It won't better you in a
worldly way. But it will make your
lives happier, for by the time you are my
age, you'll love humanity and look upon
the world and call it good."

Men in Church.—The statement is
frequently made that men do not attend
church in anything like the same pro-
portion as women. May there not be
some mistake about it? It would seem
so from the following figures: A recent
count showed the per cent. of men in the
congregations of New York churches to
be as follows: Methodist, 45; Congrega-

tional, 51; Presbyterian, 42; Reformed,
41; Disciples, 41; Baptist, 41; Episco-
palian, 33; Catholic, 22; Christian
Science, 38.

Winter in Canada.—People in other
parts of the world who talk about the
rigors of our Canadian winter, really do
not know what a delightful season it is.
With sleigh riding, tobogganing, skating,
curling, etc., the young folks have a
great time, and many of them prefer
the winter to any other season. Of course
we do occasionally have a storm, and a
scene like that shown on our front page
is not unknown, but even this has inter-
esting features. Everything considered,
Canada's climate for the whole year can
scarcely be surpassed.

Where the Money Goes.—Our
contemporary, the *Southern Presbyterian*,
says: "The question often occurs, What
becomes of the immense sums staked and
lost in gambling? Why does the success-
ful player die poor as well as the unsuccess-
ful player? Simply because no man
regards the money obtained by gambling
as he looked upon the wages of his toil.
The first thing a successful gambler
thinks of is to 'have a good time.'
Success in gambling begets folly in
spending. The loser loses; the winner
squanders. The whole is gone. Both
die 'broke.' Those not buried by the
country are usually buried by 'passing
the hat.'"

Give Them a Chance.—Lake Win-
nipeg is filled with rocks and shoals,
and can only be safely navigated by
those who are thoroughly familiar
with the channels. For years it was
thought that no one but a skilled
Indian pilot could take a steamer into
Warren's Landing at the head of the
lake. It was sometimes very inconvenient
waiting for the pilot, and by and by one
of the steamboat captains developed the
idea that he himself was quite capa-
ble of guiding his craft into dock.
One rather windy day he undertook
the task. The Indians on shore, said:
"He'll be sure to wreck the ship," but to
their surprise the steamer came in safely,
and tied up as usual. Since then the cap-
tain has been independent of the Indian
pilot and has done his own steering. It is,
as a rule, foolishness to conclude that
there is only one man in a church capa-
ble of being Sunday-school superintendent,
recording steward, or Epworth League
president. There are others able to fill
these positions when the need arises, and
it is often wise to afford them an oppor-
tunity to try their powers.