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# Canadian Epworth Era

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**At Last!**—Though for ten successive years the Rev. A. C. Crews, D.D., has edited the Era, our readers have never seen his portrait on its title page. Other handsome faces have graced our cover; but, with characteristic modesty, the editor has withheld his own. Now that the Doctor has been appointed to the more arduous duties of editor of our numerous S.S. periodicals, we take pleasure in giving him the first place in our eleventh volume, and assure him that his many friends who read the paper of his creation wish him unqualified success in his larger editorial work. We hope to

Jews. But, watching only the heavens, they forgot the weary beasts, hungry, thirsty, and tired; then they gazed, and in their trouble turned to one another. The heavenly guide was lost. Then they thought of the thirsty camel and laden ass, and hastened to undo the burdens, that the beasts might rest, and they hurried to the well for water. And lo! as they bent down they saw, reflected in its stillness, the glimmering star.' They seek in vain for the sign of God who forget the need of man or beast. To look down at the wants of others is to find the brightness that they lose who only look up."

those coming after. Once having started there, you must keep straight on until you have reached your destination. To-day's pressing duties call us forward, not backward. There are others coming after; we must push ahead for their sakes and for our own. Austria is not the only place where there is need for the warning, 'Return forbidden.'"

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**Child Culture.**—Dr. Dorchester has well said: "The Christian culture of the child should include practical instruction in what is meant by being a

## *A Personal Message from the Retiring Editor*

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**I**T is impossible for any one who has not had personal experience of the kind to know what it means for an Editor to break his relations with a paper which he brought into existence, and with which he has been intimately associated for years.

The last number of the CANADIAN EPWORTH ERA closed its tenth year, and ever since it was launched it has been upon my mind, day and night, with a constant outlook for interesting features with which to fill its pages. Consequently it is considerable of a wrench to lay down the responsibility of its management, but this is tempered by the assurance that the paper will be well looked after, and will doubtless continue to be a source of inspiration to the Epworth Leaguers of our Church.

For the many kind and encouraging things that have been said about the ERA at Conventions, and by personal letters, I tender my warmest thanks. These expressions have been wonderfully helpful.

Not only do I lay down the editorship of the ERA, but also the position of General Secretary of the Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues, to which thirteen of the best years of my life have been given. During this time I have visited almost every city, town and village in Canada, travelling 205,848 miles, delivering 2,910 sermons and addresses. Some places have felt that they have not received the attention to which they were entitled, but no one man could reasonably be expected to do more than has been done.

When my work began in 1895 there were 1,352 Young Peoples' Societies, with a membership of 62,877. Now the Societies number 1,934, and the membership is very close to 80,000.

The General Epworth League Fund has increased in this period from \$1,408 to \$2,286, and the Sunday School Aid and Extension Fund from \$2,747 to \$5,500. The givings of the Epworth Leagues to Missions have grown from about \$5,000 in 1895 to over \$50,000 in 1908.

The Epworth League Reading Course has been the means of circulating 55,000 good books, which are to-day to be found on book shelves from Halifax to Vancouver. Altogether, the record is one of progress, for which we have cause to feel grateful.

There is every reason to believe that under the direction of my successor the good work will go on, with a still larger degree of success.

As I shall still be very closely associated with young peoples' work, it will not be necessary to formally say "Good-bye." Most heartily do I wish the EPWORTH ERA prosperity, and all its readers a Very Happy New Year.

A. C. CREWS.

have many contributions from his facile pen to brighten future pages of the Era.

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**Seek and Find.**—"He who seeks a Happy New Year," says Mark Guy Pearse, "must find it in seeking the happiness of others. Selfishness is death; love alone is life. There is a well near to Bethlehem called the Well of the Wise Men, of which the legend is as follows: 'The wise men had come on their way with camels and laden asses, and were eager to find Him of Whom the heavens were telling, the Holy Child Who was born King of the

**Go Ahead!**—You have made high resolves for the new year. Keep them. Even if you sometimes disappoint yourself, do not think of retreat. The wise words of the late Henry Clay Trumbull were full of warning significance as he said: "Going back is sometimes a dangerous business. It may prove disastrous to others, as well as to ourselves. In certain mountain passes of Austria are found sign-boards bearing, in German, the words, 'Return forbidden.' These roads are so narrow and precipitous that there is no room for two carriages abreast; therefore to attempt to retrace one's path might bring disaster upon one's self and upon

Christian in all of life's relations. What constitutes a Christian in the home, in the child's relations to father and mother, and to brothers and sisters; how a Christian child should conduct himself at school, on the playground, at church; his duty toward the needy—all these should be made plain. He should be *trained* as well as taught. Such training will make boys and girls feel deeply, what adults often forget, that religion is an everyday activity. It will prepare them to see something of the social significance of Christianity; that the Church is needed by Christians not merely for their own salvation, but to help them save the world."