

THE Canadian Epworth Era

Published Monthly in the interests of Sunday Schools and Young People's Societies of the Methodist Church.

Subscription Price: 50 cents a year. A Club of six, \$2.50. The Paper will not be sent after term of subscription expires.

Subscriptions should always be sent to the Publisher, WILLIAM FAISON, Wesley Building, Toronto, Ont. All other matters concerning the Paper should be sent to the Editor, Rev. S. T. BARTLETT, Wesley Buildings, Toronto, Ont.

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My Work

Why should I envy other people their work or their reward? There is no need of it, and it will not be done if we get a proper view of our own work. There is something we each can do, and no one else can. If my neighbor runs a good business or farm, why should I complain about him doing so well. My task is to look after my own plot. If I am a lover of the good things I will rejoice in my neighbor's success as well as my own. Envy is small, short-sighted, blinding and blighting. Van Dyke's lines are to the point here:—

"Let me but find it in my heart to say
When vagrant wishes beckon me astray—
'This is my work, my blessing, not my doom.
Of all who live, I am the one by whom
This work can best be done in the
right way.'"

Humor

Of all the qualities that people who have much to do with society and public life need, a sense of humor is one of the most important. This is very evident in the business meetings and deliberative gatherings. Humor is good nature manifesting itself. Soberness can be carried too far, and become an evil. Some of the fathers were too serious, and debates and discussion led into factions and battles of pen, tongue, or sword. A little grain of humor would have sweetened the whole atmosphere. Cultivate the sense of humor. Give people a chance to laugh and be agreeable. Keep them good-natured if you want to influence their wills.

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