

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

This department is conducted by a member of the General Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies. Correspondence is invited from all Young People's Societies, and Presbyterial and Synodical Committees. Address: "Our Young People," PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2464, Toronto, Ont.

REPORTS FROM THE SOCIETIES.

The blank forms issued by the Assembly's Committee for the reports of the Young People's Societies have by this time reached their destination. The questions will be found sufficiently numerous and varied to enable every society to give a good account of itself. It is very desirable that the replies should be full and accurate, and that they should be forwarded promptly to the Conveners of Presbytery Committees, whose addresses will be found on the last page of the form. Now that an opportunity is afforded the Young People of making known to the Church the number and nature of the organizations to which they belong, and of reporting the work which has been accomplished during the past year, it is to their interest to see that the returns are made promptly and that every Society under the control of Sessions is reported. The Assembly's Committee asks the co-operation of every Society that its first report to the General Assembly next June may be as full and accurate as possible.

ONE Y. P. S. C. E.

Writing in the December number of the *Knox College Monthly*, concerning the Y.P.S.C.E. in St. Paul's Church, Bowmanville, Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, M.A., writes: "The Y.P.S.C.E. was founded in 1839, and, so far as known, was the first in the town or country. The organization was accomplished during the absence of the pastor on a long holiday, chiefly through the zeal and tact of his efficient 'supply.' On his return four months afterwards to his unmingled surprise and delight, the pastor found his Young People *revival*. It was as much a surprise to themselves as to him. Some of those who were surest that they were born dumb, and must always remain so, were already using their tongues with pleasure and profit.

The history of the Society has been uneventful. It has had its ups and downs. At the present writing it is smaller than it has sometimes been. But it has never shown any signs of disintegration, and now, at the end of six years, is still a centre of life, and inspiration and work.

The "Model Constitution" was adopted, at the outset, in its entirety, with one exception, viz., a quarterly instead of a monthly "consecration meeting," and this so placed as to fall upon the week preceding the Communion. The arrangement has been found excellent, and there has been no disposition to change it.

The Presbytery in which our society was situated was one of the first to call its Young People together. This was done in 1833, and in 1834 a Presbyterial Young People's Society was formed, with a simple and comprehensive constitution. It embraces all Young People's Societies recognized by Sessions and unites them for spiritual culture and work. This organization has now for two years been supporting a missionary in the Northwest, whose letters go the round of the various societies in the Presbytery, and have thus done much to bind them together.

These Presbyterial Conventions have helped our Young People to recognize their strength, and it is not improbable that such Presbyterial "rallies" may prove stepping-stones to an occasional great gathering covering the whole Church. Why not? It is vain to cry, "Too many meetings! Too many organizations!" Presbyterianism has its choice: That the enthusiasm of its Young People shall be given altogether to the various local, and county, and provincial, and national, and international organizations of a general character—and none of these are to be spoken against; or that, in accordance with the spirit of Christian Endeavor, its own Church shall receive the first and chief share.

THE BIBLE SUFFICIENT.

Dr. Duff, the well-known Indian missionary, when acting as professor of evangelistic theology in the New College, Edinburgh, was wont to invite his students to his house. The pleasant evenings were closed with family worship. The *Quarterly Record* of the National Bible Society of Scotland recalls a touching feature in connection with those gatherings:

"When the doctor opened his big Bible on these occasions he used to pause and, turning to the lady, relate a well-known incident in the history of the book before him. A lover of the classics, when he first went out to India as a missionary he had fitted up in his cabin a little library of the choicest Greek and Latin authors, in whose company he passed many a happy hour. But the vessel was wrecked, and nearly everything on board was lost,

the passengers and crew being glad to reach the shore without loss of life or limb. They had gathered round a hastily kindled fire when a sailor, who had been down on the beach watching the wreck, was seen approaching with something in his hand. 'See what I have picked up on the shore' he cried. 'And the sailor handed me,' Dr. Duff would say, 'a book, this very book,' laying his hand on the Bible, which still bore marks of the rough usage it had received before it escaped the sea. 'All my classics went to the bottom; but, when the Bible was thus rescued and brought back to my hands, I seemed almost to hear a voice from heaven saying to me; 'Greek and Latin authors are not needed to convert the natives of India; the Bible alone, with God's Spirit, is sufficient, for it is the sword of the Spirit, and mighty through God to the pulling down of Satan's strongholds.'" Yes, the Bible, with divine help, is sufficient to convert India, to convert the world to Christ. Be it ours to send it forth on its divine mission.

TWO CENTS A WEEK, AND A PRAYER.

"Two cents a week, and a prayer,"
A tiny gift may be,
But it helps to do a wonderful work
For our sisters across the sea.

"Two cents a week, and a prayer,"
From our abundant store,
It was never missed for its place was filled
By a Father's gift of more.

"Two cents a week, and a prayer,"
'Twas the prayer, perhaps, after all,
That the work has done and a blessing bought,
The gift was so very small.

"Two cents a week, and a prayer,"
Freely and heartily given;
The treasures of earth will all melt away—
This is treasure laid up in heaven.

—Heathen *Womans Friend*.

FROM THE WIDE FIELD.

Four Christian Endeavor Societies exist in the Bethlehem Bohemian Church, Chicago, and both languages are heard at the Y.P.S.C.E. services.

Washington, D.C., has a monthly union mass-meeting of all the Young People's Societies in the city.

The discharged prisoners from the Pittsfield, Mass., jail are being looked after by the Good Citizenship Committee of the Christian Endeavor Union.

The Young People's Society of the Clarence Street Baptist Church, Boston, of which the late Dr. Gordon was the beloved pastor, gave, *not raised*, nineteen hundred dollars for foreign Missions.

At the holiday season a remarkable service was held in the Kentucky State Prison by the Christian Endeavors of the neighborhood. The meeting was held at the invitation of the Society in the prison. More than 100 professed conversion before the close of the day, and over 400 persons expressed a desire to lead a Christian life.

A Young People's Society in New Zealand has adopted a plan which is reported to be working very satisfactorily. This is the plan: Each member of the Society promises to write at least one letter a month on some purely religious subject, having for its definite object the extension of the Master's Kingdom. The letter is sent to some acquaintance or friend in need of spiritual help. The subjects dealt with in these letters are left entirely to the discretion of the individual writers.

A joint committee representing the Epworth League and the Society of Christian Endeavor met in Chicago, Dec. 14th. In the absence of Bishop Fitzgerald, Bishop Merrill presided at the opening session. An agreement, looking to the establishment of fraternal relations between the two Young People's organizations, was adopted, the details of which are to be given when officially approved.

A pastor in Cobourg has put his copying machine to good use. A syllabus of his Sabbath morning sermon is printed and distributed by members of the Young Peoples Society to those who are sick, or who, for other causes, may not be able to attend the church service.

Faith is fellowship. I give myself up to the influence of the friend who makes me a promise and become linked to him by it. And it is when we enter into this living fellowship with God Himself, in a faith that always sees and hears Him, that it becomes easy and natural to believe His promise as to prayer. . . . Surely for one who knows his Father well, and lives in constant, close intercourse with Him, it is a simple thing to believe the promise that He will do the will of His child who lives in union with Himself.—*Andrew Murray*.