

League is truly denominational—"a thoroughly Methodist movement designed to build up Methodism, that Methodism may do more effective work in building up the cause of Christ everywhere." It is also grandly interdenominational, providing for the affiliation of and co-operation with all young peoples' societies that are organized to work "for Christ and the Church." By our constitution our young people may not only be an integral part of this great Methodist movement, with its over 6,000 Leagues and more than 300,000 members, but also a branch of that world-wide Christian Endeavor movement, in which the young people of all denominations are engaged in the great work of uplifting humanity, with its 13,000 societies and 784,000 members. Just think of it! Over 300,000 young Methodists on this continent formed in a "league, offensive and defensive with every soldier of Jesus Christ." What shall be the outcome of this great army of Christian cadets imbued with the spirit of Bishop Simpson's memorable utterance: "We live to make our own Church a power in the land, while we live to love every other Church that exalts our Christ."

Realize, if you can, the power of the more than one million Christian young men and women of America, organized for the promotion of personal Christian life, and the doing of aggressive Christian work. Hear the tramp, tramp of this great army, from Alaska to Mexico, from Newfoundland to British Columbia, marching to the music and enthusiasm of "Onward, Christian Soldiers," and imbued with the spirit of Miss Havergal's hymn of consecration.

Imagine the future, when this army shall have more than doubled on this continent, when its battalions shall be found in every land, when its bugle call to duty shall not cease to echo around the world, and when its sweet Mizpah "God be with you till we meet again," shall not die away in all the earth. "What shall the harvest be" of the seeds of Christian truth and manly virtue sown in this young humanity? As we look out into the darkness of discouraged Christian effort, with such a future before us, and call to the watcher above the portals of Zion, "Watchman, what of the night?" we hear in clear, courageous, and encouraging tones, "The morning cometh." Yes, it is coming. It has come. But what of the noon-day glory and meridian splendor of the Church of the future, when her ranks shall be filled and her posts manned, not by new recruits or self-drilled soldiers, but by organized and disciplined men and women, trained in and for systematic Christian work?

This organization of the young people of Christendom for the promotion of Christian life and effort is the great event of the nineteenth century Christianity, and must be utilized by our Methodism if we are to make the most of our opportunities. With our young men and women subscribing to and living out,

"Taking Christ as my example and trusting in the help of the Holy Spirit, I promise that I will endeavor to learn and do my Heavenly Father's will," the Methodist Church of the future will far surpass the record of the past in work done and character produced.

TEN YEARS' PROGRESS.

BY REV. W. H. WITHROW, D.D.

THE tenth anniversary of the formation of the Epworth League in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 15th, 1889, is a very significant milestone for measuring its progress. Ten years in the life of an individual is a good deal, but in the life of a great organization, destined to endure, we believe, as long as the Church of God on earth shall last, it is a comparatively short period. Yet in that

broaden the Christian's horizon by a larger culture in the world of thought and expression, and to develop vital piety by devotional services and tender ministry and Christly work."

Merely numbering the tribes of our spiritual Israel is not the best method of judging its worth and work. Has it increased the quantity and improved the quality of Christian service? Of this there can be no question. Its consecration meetings have been seasons of spiritual power and blessing. But personal consecration is the beginning and not the end of its holy purpose. It has translated devotion into work. Not mere pietism or quietism, but doing something for God and his Church has been its noble ideal—not merely to "look up" to God for personal help, but to "lift up" the fallen, to remember the forgotten, to visit the forsaken, to seek and to save that which was lost.

The age in which we live demands an intelligent Christianity. The Epworth League seeks to create such a type of religion. It has led to a deeper study of the heroic history and noble traditions of Methodism than our young people ever had before. It has led, in large degree, to a more generous culture, a more thorough study of the Word and works of God than has been their wont. It has substituted in many homes for desultory, frivolous, or pernicious reading well digested and thoughtful courses of study. It has especially widened the horizon of missionary sympathy. It has led our young people to lift up their eyes and see the fields white unto the harvest in our own and other lands. It is developing a missionary zeal unknown before. It is, we believe, stimulating many to devote themselves to the service of Christ and of His Church, and to more fully prepare and equip themselves for Christian work.

Has the League done all that it might have done, or should have done? No, for the League is composed of human units, with human limitations. Neither, for the same reason, has the Church of God in any age done all that it might and should have done. But in a short ten years it has accomplished more than the most sanguine dreamer could have dreamed. It has organized the young life and young blood of Methodism for grander service and for broader culture than they have ever known before. It has led to a study of the social problems of the times and of the means for their solution—the application of the Golden Rule in all the relations of life. It has cultivated a tenderer sympathy and a broader fraternity with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity and truth. And, true to its motto, it desires to form a solemn league and covenant with every soldier of the Cross. It has led many to become heralds of salvation in their own land and in the high places of the mission field. It has led multitudes into lives of



METROPOLITAN CHURCH, TORONTO.
WHERE THE CANADIAN EPWORTH LEAGUE WAS LAUNCHED.

short decade what marvellous progress has been made! It is probable that not less than two million earnest young souls in the United States and Canada, and in the Methodist mission fields of foreign lands, have been enrolled in the goodly fellowship of the Epworth League. The little one has become a thousand, the small one a great nation. It is the Lord's doings and is marvellous in our eyes.

But mere growth in numbers would count for little unless these millions of young people were inspired with nobler ideals and greater moral earnestness. Has this been the case with the Epworth League? Thank God, that question is easily answered in the strong affirmative.

The League is true to the historic genius of Methodism. It is specifically religious in its spirit. It seeks to promote spiritual life by Bible study, by Christian fellowship and testimony, "to