

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR YOUNG MEN.

The Young Men's Christian Associations meet in International Convention on both sides of the Atlantic, in Europe triennially, and biennially in America. The last two Conventions—one at Geneva and the other at Baltimore, united in setting apart the second Sabbath in November, with the week following (Nov. 14-20), as a season of special prayer for young men, and Christian work on their behalf.

The International Committee have recently issued a call containing the following topics for meetings each day of the week:

Nov. 14, Sabbath morning—Workers Together with Him—their Spirit. 2 Cor. vi. 1-10.

Nov. 14, Sabbath afternoon—Bringing one's Friends to Jesus. Luke v. 17-26.

Nov. 14, Sabbath evening—The Worst Foe and the Best Friend of Young Men. Luke xlii. 31-32; 1 Peter v. 8; Luke xix. 10.

Nov. 15, Monday—In what does Life Consist? Luke xlii. 15-23; Eccl. ii. 17-18; Rom. viii. 6.

Nov. 16, Tuesday—Investigation a Path to Faith. John i. 46; John iv. 28-30, 40-42; v. 39.

Nov. 17, Wednesday—Jesus Testing the Impulsive, the Præstinating, and the Undecided. Luke ix. 57-62.

Nov. 18, Thursday—A Young Man who Obeyed the Voice of Christ. Luke vii. 11-16; Ephesians v. 14.

Nov. 19, Friday—Crisis in Daniel's Life. Dan. i. 8-20.

Nov. 20, Saturday—An Unconditional Surrender. Acts ix. 1-9; Phil. iii. 7-9.

The outlook over the field of Association work is very encouraging. Forty-three working organizations have been planted the past year in as many colleges, making in all one hundred institutions where these societies exist. At twenty-five railroad centres the International Committee have already organized working bands of Christian railroad men, with reading rooms and competent secretaries in charge. One travelling secretary of the committee is now at work seeking to make the various Associations more effective in reaching and benefiting the sixty thousand commercial travellers employed by the merchants of the country. For a similar work among German-speaking young men, the committee have an admirable secretary in the field, who, at six centres of German population, has planted good working organizations with a competent secretary in charge of each.

In every direction, north, south, east, and west, and by the general committees, both State and International, progress is being made in developing this Christian work, specially at city centres, and in placing at each point competent young men in charge as managing secretaries. The International Committee have in this way during the past year, supplied the Associations with an additional force of twenty-nine young men to act as secretaries, and the whole number now employed by the Associations is one hundred and sixty-one, a corps both larger in number and better in quality than this work for young men has ever been able to command in previous years.

STUDENTS' MISS. SOCIETY, PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

The annual meeting of the above Society took place in the College, on October 22nd, 1880. There was a large attendance of students, and a lively interest was manifested by all throughout. After devotional exercises the several missionaries were called upon to present their reports.

The first report read was that of Mr. R. Macnabb, the missionary to Massawippi, Ayer's Flats, and King's Corners for the past summer. At these three stations Mr. Macnabb laboured faithfully both in preaching the Gospel and conducting Sabbath school. It was with feelings of gratitude to God that the Society learned that the labours of former missionaries were already bringing forth fruit, and also that in many cases the hearty co-operation of the people was manifest.

Mr. R. Hyde, who laboured during the past summer at Coaticook, North Coaticook and Richby, presented his report, which was full of interest, more especially on account of the fact that but a few years ago there was not a Presbyterian in the field, while infidelity in its various forms was not wanting. Yet now Mr. Hyde reports that there are at Coaticook thirty-six

members in full communion, and also that the attendance at divine service steadily increased during his stay. Considering the adverse circumstances that were found to exist when this field was first taken up, the Society have reason to believe that God has blessed to a large degree its labours there.

Rawdon is a new field to the Society, which for the past thirty years has been neglected by our Church. It is beautifully situated, being surrounded by the romantic scenery of the Laurentian Mountains, distant about fifty miles from Montreal. A church was built here in 1834, and the Rev. Mr. Millar was settled among the people as ordained pastor. He left in 1837 at the beginning of the Papineau-Mackenzie rebellion, since which time no Gospel services have been supplied by our Church till the Society last spring appointed Mr. J. A. Townsend, at the request of the people, to this station. Though labouring under many discouragements Mr. Townsend reported favourably concerning the field. The people though not blessed with much of this world's goods, shewed their appreciation of the missionary's labours and a desire for a continuance of Gospel privileges by giving cheerfully and liberally to the cause of Christ.

The amount of the Society's indebtedness at the present time is \$351.92, an amount much smaller than has been known for some years back.

While the Society realizes that God has signally blessed it during the past summer in financial matters, it hopes that with the incoming season of prosperity the increased liberality of its many friends will be manifested towards it, so that in time to come it may be able to go in and possess the many fields yet unoccupied and destitute of the Gospel.

After hearing the reports the officers for the ensuing year were duly elected. The committee to furnish missionary intelligence during each month was appointed. It was also arranged for the winter that a regular supply for Coaticook, Massawippi, and Rawdon be sent out to these places.

A committee for city missionary work was appointed, and also one for the supply of the Gaelic service in Montreal.

After the discussion of a few minor matters, the meeting was brought to a close by the President elect—Mr. Jas. Reid—pronouncing the benediction.

W. H. GEDDES, Rec.-Sec.

Montreal, Nov. 5th, 1880.

KNOX COLLEGE LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Literary and Metaphysical Society of Knox College held its first open meeting for the season on Friday last, in the Convocation Hall of the College. The attendance was large, the hall being quite full, and the interest displayed by all present everything that could be wished. The reading given by Mr. Angus Mackay was well received, and deservedly so; the singing by the Glee Club of the College fully maintained the high reputation of that association, while the discussion on the question, "Ought a liquor law to be passed for Canada?" was very ably maintained on both sides. The opening address, given by the President, Mr. Duncan McColl, was both able and appropriate, and we had fully hoped that we should have been able to have given it in full. We regret that from the demands upon our columns at present this is impossible. We can but mention that the subject of the address was "College Life as a Means of Culture." After defining what he meant by "culture," Mr. McColl went on to shew what things were indispensable to this result being secured; (1) a correct guiding principle in life, (2) a readiness to obey that principle when found and to follow its call. The extent to which students are aided in attaining their ideal by means of college life was then considered. Some of the effects of mental discipline were dwelt upon. Such discipline, it was shewn, was valuable, not so much from its mere accumulation of knowledge as in the development of the judgment and reason; not in leading to taking the results of the investigations of others, but in having in every case the intelligent conviction which flows only from personal inquiry and patient thought. The social feature of college life was also dwelt upon and its mighty influence for good very forcibly noted. Physical culture was also spoken of, and the necessity for a good gymnasium in connection with the College strongly urged. The last point dwelt upon was the effect which college life ought to have on the spiritual being.

We give the closing sentences of this part in full:—

I have no doubt that we have all experienced, while at our studies, a want of that warmth of heart and zeal in God's service which we have felt while more actively engaged in

Christian work, and have tried various expedients to fan the smouldering embers into a blaze, and felt disappointed at the result. It is only as we keep close to our Father and seek to perform the duty of the hour faithfully as unto Him, that we can expect any true spiritual growth to take place.

There is a tendency on the part of those who have to teach others, to think of how the truth will affect them, and to avoid applying it to their own case, labouring ever for the benefit of others, while their own souls are poorly fed. They act like those husbandmen who expend all their labour on their fields, while that which should have been the garden spot and the fairest of all, is allowed to remain untilled to grow up with rank grasses and noxious weeds.

If we are to reach the fullest development of our spiritual nature in this sphere too, we must remember the high ideal placed before us; for our religion, raising our minds above the gross and sensual, and giving us the grandest conceptions of truth, purity and love, places before us an ideal which we but faintly grasp and dimly comprehend, with a conviction that beyond there are infinite lengths and breadths and heights and depths which we cannot explore, when it bids us to "be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect." And thus, gentlemen, I have briefly touched upon a few of the most essential points of culture in its relations to our College life.

It may be that the lot which we are destined to fill shall be a lowly one in the estimation of the world, but to every one a life of self-denial and of consecration to the good of others is open.

The mistake that the world is always making is to judge of the value of life by its outward conditions. The lofty ideal is that of a life not of power, or of eminence or even of intellectual supremacy, but of a life of moral excellence, where purity and deeds of virtue shine, and where the aim is not selfish, but the good of those around us.

It is no doubt the duty of each one of us to strive to become such a preacher as Cowper describes:

"There stands the messenger of truth! There stands
The legate of the skies! his theme divine;
His office sacred, his credentials clear.
By him the violated law speaks out
Its thunders, and by him, in strains as sweet
As angels use, the Gospel whispers peace."

But even if we fail to reach this lofty conception of the preacher and his mission, it is open to each one of us at least, with our faces toward the light, our lamps trimmed and burning, to uphold the truth in its simplicity, to seek to lead men to the fountain of light, to help to usher in the glorious day long looked for, and if we so do then, though our thoughts be but as the crudities of children, our utterances but as their broken liftings, having done our best "to help our brothers and exalt ourselves," we may expect

"To rise on stepping stones
Of our dead selves to higher things."

Above all "let us be true to ourselves, and then it must follow as night the day, we cannot be false to any man."

"Think truly and thy thoughts
Shall the world's famine feed,
Speak truly and each word of thine
Shall be a fruitful seed,
Live truly and thy life shall be
A great and noble creed."

THE Presbyterian Church at Alliston has been greatly enlarged, and the whole of the interior rearranged and improved. The services in connection with the re-opening were held on Sabbath, Oct. 24th. The Rev. J. Kirkpatrick, of Cooke's Church, Toronto, preached in the morning from Isa. lx. 13, "I will make the place of My feet glorious." In the evening he took for his text Phil. i. 21, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." The Rev. J. Bredin, of the Canada Methodist Church, preached in the afternoon from Heb. vii. 25, "He ever liveth to make intercession for us." The services throughout were well attended, the sermons especially were very highly appreciated; they contained a great depth of teaching and thought, presented in a most clear and forcible style. On Monday, the 25th, a soiree was held. The Rev. J. R. S. Burnett, pastor of the congregation, occupied the chair, and after tea had been served he introduced the speakers of the evening, Rev. Messrs. Anderson of Rosemont, Acheson of Elm Grove, and Kirkpatrick of Toronto. The Rev. J. Bredin was unavoidably absent. Special prominence was afforded to Mr. Kirkpatrick, who, during the evening, made himself a great favourite with both ministers and people. The choir, under the able leadership of Mr. P. W. Campbell, has made great improvement of late, and added very much to the enjoyment of the evening by rendering some very select pieces of music. The collections on Sabbath, and the proceeds of the soiree were in aid of the building fund, and were much greater than was expected by the committee. This congregation has had a great deal to contend with in building up the cause of Presbyterianism here during the last twenty years, and they are now taking another step forward in this respect. It is worthy of notice that a few weeks ago when the Methodist church here was re-opened, the evening service in the Presbyterian church was cancelled for the day, and our Methodist friends followed our example by having no service in their church on the evening of our re-opening. Our friends will be pleased to see such a kind Christian feeling manifested in a place where it was not always so.—COM.