

QUESTION SPURS.

What is my aim in life?
What is the power in which I am trying to succeed?
Will the success I am seeking outlast death?

MARCH 24.—"THINGS YOU HAVE LEARNED FROM NOBLE MEN AND WOMEN, OUTSIDE OF THE BIBLE."

1 Thes. 1, 2, 8.

HOME READINGS.

Mon., March 18.—Noble Abraham. Gen. 18, 1-8.
Tues., March 19.—Noble Moses. Ex. 4, 18-23.
Wed., March 20.—Noble David. I Sam. 17, 33-37.
Thurs., March 21.—Noble Ruth. Ruth 1, 14-18.
Fri., March 22.—Noble Mary. Luke 1, 39-45.
Sat., March 23.—Noble Saul. Acts 9, 1-9.

FOREWORD.

Example is much more inspiring than precept. Nothing so helps us to live right as the life story of a godly man or woman. It is the truth incarnate, presented in the most attractive and forcible form, when we see what others have accomplished, we are encouraged to do our best to realize something worthy of ourselves and our opportunities. The Bible is the greatest book of biography in the world, and we cannot too earnestly study the great truths that are shown to us in the conduct of those whose lives are portrayed, but there is also much to learn from noble men and women outside of the pages of the bible. We shall only give a few suggestions, for this is a subject which calls for personal experience.

BIBLE LIGHT.

"We give thanks to God always for you all" (v. 2). We are continually talking about the material blessings that are ours; we make much of the railroad, the telegraph, the telephone, and all the worldly comforts which belong to the 20th Century, but above everything else we ought to be thankful for the good men and women that this world contains.

"Work of faith, labor of love," etc. The constituent elements of a great character are here pointed out. The truly noble man is full of faith, love, patience etc., and these are not merely talked about, but actually lived out in the "sight of God," and in the presence of man.

"And ye became followers" (v. 6). The way to be a man worth imitating is to be an imitative man, imitating the highest examples, gaining inspiration not only from the Great Master Himself, but also from good men of the past and the present.

SOME NOTABLE EXAMPLES.

Luther's Courage.—So fearless was he that when threatened, and warned not to go to Worms, he declared that he would enter even if there were as many devils opposing him as tiles on the houses. When asked where he would find shelter if the elector of Saxony would desert him, his unflinching reply was: "Under the shield of heaven."

John Howard's Philanthropy.—This noble man gave himself to the tremendous task of alleviating the miseries of the prisoners of England, and accomplished a truly wonderful transformation. How many wretched people there are around us whom we might help to cheer.

William Carey's Consecration.—Preaching was his business he said, but he cobled shoes to pay expenses.

John B. Gough's victory over appetite, fighting a life long battle and gaining the mastery over the enslaving passion for drink. This may not be our besetment, but there are other appetites that tend to enslave which we ought to subdue.

Sir Alexander McKenzie's Integrity.—At the head of a great political party, subjected to the keenest criticism and yet never charged with dishonesty. Honored and respected by friend and foe as an honest politician.

These are illustrations which could be multiplied to almost any length. The leader should ask every member present to mention one name which has been helpful to him. Think of the long list that may be mentioned. John Wesley, David Livingstone, David Brainerd, W. E. Gladstone, Queen Victoria, Frances E. Willard.

The members need not confine themselves to the great names of history, but may speak of any really noble souls of their own acquaintance who have inspired them with noble ideals. Tell in a few words what you have learned from them.

This may be made a wonderfully interesting and instructive meeting.

QUESTION SPURS.

Am I strong to be worthy of the noble men who have preceded me?

What use am I making of the great biographies?

MARCH 31.—MISSIONARY MEETING

Subject—"Our Missions among English Speaking People in Canada," (Methodist Hymn Book Used).

Hymn 715.

Prayer—For our Missionaries in charge of Home Missions.

Reading of the Scriptures—John 12, 44-50.

Roll Call—In response, give a fact regarding Home Missions. These facts may be gathered from the Missionary Report. The Missionary Bulletin, and our connexional papers.

Address—"How a Home Mission is organized, and When it may cease to be a Mission and become an Independent Circuit." Ask your pastor's help in preparing for this address.

Hymn 903.

Address—"Where our Home Missions are, their number, and the local conditions which make it necessary that they should be supported.

References—"Missions in New Ontario," 5c.; Dr. McLean's Pamphlet on the North-West," 5c.; "Missions in Nova Scotia," 5c.; "The Missionary Report," "The Missionary Bulletin." Address—"Home Missions in the Yukon and Saskatchewan."

References—The Christian Guardian, Feb. 19th, Article on the Yukon, by Dr. White. The Missionary Outlook for March, Article by Rev. O. Darwin, on the work in Saskatchewan.

Hymn 736.

Benediction.

A map of Canada and an Atlas and geography of Canada will be sent free to those preparing for this programme. Send to F. C. Stephenson, Methodist Missions Rooms, Toronto.

We have 419 Home Missions in Canada and Newfoundland. By Domestic Missions we mean, missions to English

speaking people, and to foreigners in Canada not including Chinese and Japanese missions in British Columbia, nor the mission to our French fellow-citizens in the Province of Quebec.

In all these missions scattered from Newfoundland to the Yukon there are 384 missionaries, while the total membership, that is communicants, is 33,981. Out of every dollar received for missions last year, thirty-four cents and one mill was spent on Home Missions. This amounted to \$133,080. Our people on the home missions contribute liberally to church support. Help from the Missionary Society is only given until the congregations on the missions are able to assume entire financial responsibility of their churches.

In Assinaboia Conference there are 63 missions, the largest number in any Conference. Alberta has 61 missions; Newfoundland 22, Nova Scotia Conference 49, Montreal and New Brunswick Conferences 41 each, British Columbia Conference 39, Toronto Conference 37, Manitoba Conference 30 missions, Bay of Quinte 21, Hamilton 10 and London Conference 5.

HOW OUR HOME MISSION DEPARTMENT IS MANAGED.

At the last General Conference held in Montreal, September, 1906, the office of General Secretary for Home Missions was created, and the Rev. James Allen elected secretary by the General Board of Missions. Associated with Mr. Allen are Rev. J. H. White, D.D., local Superintendent for British Columbia, the Rev. T. C. Buchanan, local Superintendent for Alberta, the Rev. O. Darwin, local Superintendent for Assinaboia Conference and Dr. James Woodworth, senior Superintendent resident in Winnipeg.

THE GREAT WEST.

In the report submitted by the officers of the Missionary Society to the General Conference held in Montreal, September, 1906, the importance and needs of the work in the West were emphasized.

With the stream of new settlers which is constantly pouring into the new provinces, the West is looking to the Methodism of the East to come to its assistance with men and money in seeking to establish in the very foundation of our nation building, the church of the living God.

In 1902 the membership of Manitoba, Assinaboia and Albert Conferences numbered 22,392, in 1906 the membership was reported as 32,102. There are now in these three conferences 383 churches and 200 parsonages.

Money given to the West for Home Missions is money well invested. Dr. Woodworth reports that from the year 1902 to 1906, the money spent in these three Conferences was \$143,982, while there were raised for missions by these Conferences during the same period \$149,967, being an increase of almost \$6,000 in excess of what it cost the church to open new missions and to help others to independent support. Let us sow abundantly that we may also reap abundantly and there is no greater field than our wide West. A close study of our Missionary Report pages LXXXIV, XLV, and XLVI also pages LXXXIV, to CXLII will give a comprehensive idea of the work of our missionaries in the Western and other Conferences.

While it is necessary to call your attention to the financial and statistical reports in order that we may give evidence of the spiritual and character building work which is being done, we do not wish our young people to limit their study to the figures presented no matter how encouraging they may be. We trust that all who are interested in holding Canada for God will realize that this great