

Pastor and People.

LIFE'S MYSTERIES.

There are things we cannot know,
In life's silent mystery,
Why the tears of sorrow flow,
Why the heart's long agony,
Why so oft the noblest lives,
Strong to help the great world's needs,
Are removed ere yet the seeds
Of their life work can expand.
While the meaner soul survives,
And the cumber lives and thrives;
Ah! 'tis hard to comprehend
There is here some higher end;
And we cannot now descry
Whence, the wherefore and the why.
We are everywhere beset
With thick darkness meanwhile—Yet
Breaking in upon the scene,
There will be revealed at length,
Wisdom lying close between
All our seeming loss and pain,
Till, unto our added strength,
All that's dark shall be made plain.
When the light behind the screen
Shall no longer shine in vain
Newtownards.

W. J. G.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR PRINCIPLES, WORK AND UNION.

A picturesque scene is that which the Scriptures record as occurring near the close of the life of the Prophet Elisha. The dying seer places his hands upon the hands of King Joash, which hold the royal bow and arrow, and he tells him to shoot. The king obeys, and out of the open window the arrow speeds, while the prophet cries out, "The arrow of the Lord's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria."

Then said the prophet, "Take the arrows, and smite upon the ground;" and he smote thrice, and stayed. "And the man of God was wroth with him, and said, 'Thou shouldst have smitten five or six times; then hadst thou smitten Syria till thou hadst consumed it, whereas now thou shalt smite Syria but thrice.'"

Some such message comes to us, Christian Endeavorers, on the occasion of this our thirteenth convention.

"Strike. Strike in the name of the Lord. Strike again for the principles that have made you strong. Strike once more for converted loyalty and outspoken devotion and definite service. Strike again for Christian Citizenship, and for the extension of the Kingdom in all lands, and for your World-wide Fellowship. "Do not be content with one, two, or three blows for the right. Strike, and strike and strike again until the day is won."

If I can read aright the times, this is the message for to-day.

I. Strike once more for the principles that have made Christian Endeavor strong.

As an organization becomes popular and vigorous, it sometimes forgets the principles that gave it strength and vigor. Let that never be said of the Society of Christian Endeavor.

What are our principles? If I know anything about them, they are the ideas involved in the pledge, the consecration meeting, and the committees.

We have struck with these arrows three times, but let us not excite the just wrath of God's prophets by staying our hands. Four, five, six, perhaps sixty-six, times do we need to reiterate the truth involved in our pledge;—that it is reasonable to vow and to pay unto God our vows, that there is nothing in the Christian Endeavor pledge that the weakest and obscurest young Christian cannot fulfil; that this, more than all other things, gives lasting power to our Society, and that without it, in its substance, no Endeavor society is worthy of the name.

So for the consecration meeting. This is our land of Florida, where we not only seek, but find, the fountain of perpetual youth. Our hour of consecration is our hour of rejuvenation. Anteus touched earth with but one foot or one finger, and was revived and quickened for a stronger fight. At the monthly roll-call meeting we touch heaven, and are revived for a further journey and conflict in the world.

So with the committees. They are essen-

* The above is the annual address—slightly condensed by the Editor—of the Rev. Francis E. Clark, D.D., President of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, delivered at the Thirtieth International Convention, Cleveland, July 12, 1894.

tial. They mean Christian work. They stand for individual service. All these are not mere methods or crutches or helps over hard places; they involve principles that go with the name "Christian Endeavor," and with which the name should always go. Upon the maintenance of these principles depends, I am confident, the future success of Christian Endeavor. Do not think that the time has come when we can ignore these ideas or treat them lightly. Do not suppose that the public has so fully accepted them that they can be safely dropped out of sight. At union meetings and conventions, in your own society and in more public gatherings, by print and by speech, let us strike not three times, but five or six times, until all the world knows for what Christian Endeavor stands. May I suggest that more of the money raised in our State conventions might be profitably spent in circulating this fundamental literature rather than in any other way? Sow broadcast this seed. Show that Christian Endeavor has principles—definite, reasonable, workable principles, principles in which we believe; principles that we can defend; principles that constitute the strength of the movement.

II. Again, Christian Endeavorers, strike once more for good citizenship. Right nobly have you rallied around this standard during the past year.

From east and west and north and south has come the good news,—“Christian Endeavor stands for the election of good men, for the enactment of good laws, for sturdy and steady opposition to the saloon, the gambling-hell, the lottery, the violation of the Sabbath.” It stands by every party that seeks to purify politics and to make this Immanuel's land. To be a Christian Endeavorer does not mean that one is necessarily a Republican, or a Democrat, or a Populist, or a Third Party man, a Blue or a Grit, a Tory or a Liberal. It does mean that he is necessarily a good citizen, and we will exert every ounce of his influence, for the right. The outlook may at times be dark, but it is not hopeless. This last year has seen Boss McKane sent to Sing-Sing, and Brooklyn redeemed. It has seen Croker fly to Europe. It has heard Woolley speak in Chicago and Indianapolis, and Murphy in Boston, and has witnessed a score of other good-citizenship campaigns.

It has seen a splendid verdict pronounced against the saloon in Canada, a verdict that Endeavorers have made emphatic in a hundred towns. Thank God for the year's work! But you have only struck once, Endeavorers. Strike again and again, until, if Christ should come to Chicago or New York or Toronto or San Francisco, He would find clean streets, and clean city halls, and clean men in them, with never a brothel or a dive to pollute the air that He should breathe.

III. For missions, too, more has been done during the past year than ever before. That eloquent Roll of Honor tells us that tens of thousands of dollars have been given. The missionary extension course, with that "son of thunder" at its head, has kindled a genuine missionary prairie fire wherever it has swept,—through Illinois, into Indiana, and Wisconsin and Kansas, south into Tennessee, and east into New York. But it is a kindled nation, and not merely blazing patches of missionary enthusiasm, that we desire to see, and Christian Endeavor bears the torch that can kindle this fire. Millions should be given where now are given thousands. A very moderate calculation puts the earnings of active Christian Endeavorers at \$150,000,000 for the last twelve months. One-tenth of that, \$15,000,000, would be nearly twice as much as all the Christians of America gave to Home and Foreign missions within that time. We rejoice profoundly and humbly in this year of missionary work. That splendid Roll of Honor, these banners, the diplomas, which will mean so much to those that win them, are significant chiefly because they mean the beginning of larger and better things in missionary giving and missionary enterprise.

Listen to the sound of the missionary arrows as they strike the earth. It is a faint and feeble reverberation, compared with the wail of the unsaved multitude whom we

should rescue. Strike again, Christian Endeavorers, and again and again, and then once more. It is not the stern voice of a chiding prophet that speaks to you, but the conscious need of our own beloved land, English-speaking America, and the unconscious needs of hundreds of millions of the non-Christian world, that call upon you for a constantly larger effort. A year ago at Montreal three advanced steps were proposed,—Christian citizenship, proportionate and systematic giving to missions, and the enlargement of our Christian Endeavor Fellowship.

IV. All these steps you have taken with quickened pace and flying banners. As never before has Christian Endeavor advanced in numbers and in widespread fellowship. In hospitable Australia, in Mother England, in progressive Japan, in conservative China, in awakening India, as well as in the great Republic and the great Dominion of North America (which in Christian Endeavor always have been, and I trust always will be, one), our fellowship has grown as in no previous year.

The year has been notable beyond every other year for its wonderful interdenominational Endeavor conventions in all parts of the world. What a royal Endeavor convention was that in London last May, when the representatives of more than seventy-five thousand brothers and sisters of Great Britain gathered their hosts in the Metropolitan Tabernacle! Our love and greetings to you, brothers and sisters of the Motherland!

And what good news constantly comes from Australasia! God bless you, brothers that live under the Southern Cross, who stand with us for pledged consecration and zealous Christian Endeavor work.

India already speaks for Christian Endeavor in seven languages, the vernacular of tens of millions of her people. China sends word of overflowing rallies and of constantly increasing enthusiasm for Christian Endeavor. In oppressed Turkey Christian Endeavor still lives and grows; while in Japan, the advance-guard nation of the Orient, at this moment our Endeavor brothers are holding their second convention. Can you not feel the beating of their pulse to-night?

The boys and girls in the junior societies, too, have come marching on, keeping step with their older brothers and sisters. The mothers' societies and the intermediate societies have been peculiar, natural, and most helpful developments of our fellowship during the past year. I rejoice to say that in the northern Dominion there is scarcely a division; almost all the young people's societies are either Christian Endeavor or Epworth Leagues of Christian Endeavor.

These thirteen years—particularly this past year—have proved that Baptists and Methodists and Presbyterians and Lutherans and Disciples of Christ and Friends and Congregationalists and Moravians, and every variety of these denominations, can find a common meeting-place in Christian Endeavor. No creed separates us, no form of polity disrupts us, no question of disloyalty exists to terrify us; for we have come together for service, for Endeavor. In the late war, while the soldiers were in camp, there might be rivalry between the different regiments and corps; but when they came to march against the enemy, regimental rivalry and corps jealousies were sent to the rear in double-quick time, and, touching elbows (O the thrill of that "elbow-touch" as old soldiers have described it to me!), they stood together, and marched together, and fought together, and died together.

There is no north or south in Christian Endeavor. Thank God that, however our fathers have been divided, the hearts of a multitude of young Christians on both sides of Mason and Dixon's line are joined in Christian Endeavor. Of what incalculable benefit may such conventions as this prove in promoting true patriotism and national unity! Ours is no fratricidal contest. Our enemy is the enemy of all righteousness. Why should all young people not be united against him?

Has not the time come for a still longer stride?

The suggestion has come from Australia, and has been seconded by England and China and India and Japan, of a 'World's Christian

Endeavor Union, made up of individuals in all lands that believe in the Endeavor ideas, and will stand with us on the broad platform of Endeavor principles,—a platform of thorough loyalty to our own churches and of hearty co-operation one with another. In my opinion the time has come for such an alliance which will link many Christians of many nations together in ties of fellowship that they have never before known.

O brothers, let us cultivate every bond of fellowship. Let us strengthen every tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. Enough causes, at the best, distract and weaken and divide Christian forces. If Christian Endeavor, while maintaining and guaranteeing the loyalty of every one of us to the truth as God gives us to see the truth, should be the blessed instrument in the hands of Providence for bringing earnest Christians nearer together, the world around, our cup of happiness would be full. And there are signs of it! Already we may claim a Christian Endeavor spiritual federation of two millions of English-speaking Christians. In London, last Whitsuntide, they had the same kind of a convention that we are holding here in Cleveland. In Melbourne and Sydney, in Manchester and Liverpool, in their local unions they discuss the same topics, and employ the very same method and draw inspiration from the same sources that we do in New York and Boston and San Francisco and Toronto.

A union of English-speaking Christians is good to contemplate; but we will not stop with those that speak our mother tongue, for in Shanghai and Tokyo, in Bombay and in Calcutta, in San Sebastian and in Paris, are earnest souls not a few, who spiritually link hands with us in an ever-growing circle that begins to belt the globe. In substance and essence we have a world's union now; its more formal establishment would but make plain that to oppose the common enemy, to work for our common Lord, we stand together in Christian Endeavor. Weak bands of our fellow-Christians would be strengthened; isolated companies of young believers would gain courage to persevere; and the world would understand that, so far as Endeavorers are concerned, it is not an empty boast, and not merely a pleasant song,—

"We are not divided,
All one body we."

In this world's union we may better answer our Lord's prayer. In this world-wide fellowship we may, I believe, better obey the prophet's injunction to strike not thrice, but five or six times, until the Syrians of selfishness and prejudice and unbrotherliness shall have been slain by the nineteenth-century knight errant that stands for fellowship as well as for fidelity, for brotherhood as well as for loyalty.

Then in this world's Endeavor union will our yearly motto, which we cannot yet exchange for another, mean more than ever before, as we remember that in America and England, in Australia and India, in China and Japan, in France and Spain, in Mexico and South America, in Africa and Madagascar, and the islands of the sea, "One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren."

FILIAL PIETY.

Nothing in the character of Joseph is more strikingly beautiful than his reverence for his father. And never was there finer illustration of obedience to the fifth commandment, and of the blessings that flow from such obedience. A young man who has sprung from humble, rustic stock, and who has attained exalted station, is only too apt to be forgetful of "the old folks at home," or to be ashamed of their simple manners and humble garb, if at any time they put in an appearance in the elegant circle in which he has come to move. But Joseph's character was of a nobler type. So far from shunning his old father, he sent for him, and gave him honorable escort as though he were a king. Very uncouth, perhaps, was the appearance of the shepherd patriarch in the midst of the dazzling array of courtiers that were clustered about the throne; but Joseph was just as reverential to his father as though he had been clothed in imperial purple and had been monarch of all the East. And when the old man died, Joseph gave him a princely funeral, and mourned with so great and generous a grief that all the people marvelled. Only let it be noticed that he did not reserve all his filial piety till the funeral, as only too many do. Let those who would be blessed like Joseph learn the secret of his blessing here.—*Dr. Henson, in the Baptist Teacher.*