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### Be Strong!

Be strong!  
Say not the days are evil—who's to blame!  
And fold the hands and acquiesce—  
Oh, shame!  
Stand up, speak out, and bravely, in  
God's name.

Be strong!  
It matters not how deep entrenched  
the wrong,  
How hard the battle goes, the day  
how long.  
Faint not, fight on! To-morrow  
comes the song.

**A Mean Excuse.**—One of the commonest excuses for small contributions toward the general work of the church by congregations and by individuals is that "there have been so many extra expenses at home." It is one of the meanest excuses that can be made. Just because you have expended extra sums upon yourself or upon your own church it becomes your duty to keep up, or even increase, your giving to that part of Christ's work that is outside of your own neighborhood. The true Christian, before treating himself to an extra luxury, always asks, "Will I have enough to buy it without cutting down my contributions to benevolent causes?"

**Remain Young.**—It is very important that a man who is to be the shepherd of souls should remain young. No matter if his hair insists on getting white and his face corrugated; he can still be young in heart. Take the matter of amusements, for example. How can he deal intelligently with the questions which his young people will raise as to what is innocent, and what is harmful unless he looks at these things through young eyes? So long as they are dealt with in a sympathetic way and by one whom they confidently look upon as understanding and sympathizing with them; young people are quite as docile and tractable as older ones, often more so. And they are just as religious. The drab soberness which comes simply because youth's buoyant spirits have left us is not pious. God's kingdom is a joyous kingdom. Even his Church on earth would be infinitely impoverished without the prattle of smiling children and the laughter of joyous youth.

**An Incentive.**—True religion, through church organizations, through philanthropic organizations, in all the field of kindred endeavor, can manifest itself as effectively in the crowded and complex life of to-day as ever it did in the pioneer yesterdays; and the souls of men need the light now, and strive blindly toward it, as they needed it and strove toward it in the vanished past. Glory in the past, but treat it as an incentive to do well in the present. Do not confine yourselves to being so proud of it that you forget to do similar work to-day. It is your task to do the work of the Lord on the farm and in the mine, in the counting-room and the factory, in the car-shops and beside the blasting-furnaces, just as it was the task of your spiritual forebears to wrestle for the souls of the men and women who dwelt on the stump-dotted clearings in the wilderness.

**An Admirable Crank.**—Anthony Comstock, of New York city, chief of the militant bands who are trying to crush organized vice and eliminate individual depravity, is a brave and interesting person. He was recently interviewed and among other choice utterances we notice this noble tribute to his mother: "I am called a crank, but no one ever saw an ocean liner that didn't have a crank, and there's a crank on every locomotive that pulls a long freight train up a hill. My six brothers and sisters may be as poor as I am, but all of us have something better than money—the teachings and the memory of a devoted and deeply religious mother. I would rather die than do anything she would disapprove of were she alive. Some poet has condensed her life into four lines:  
"Build it well, what'er ye do;  
Build it straight, and strong, and true;  
Build it high, and clean, and broad;  
Build it for the eye of God."

**Re-organize the Programme.**—Gypsy Smith gives Methodist Churches some good advice, as follows: "Then I think Methodism, if she is to keep in touch with the new conditions, must reorganize her programme. Take the average Sunday service all through Methodism, it is pretty much alike, whether in London, or east, west, north or south. Would a business man, opening four shops in four sections of London, put the same sort of goods in the window of each place? Would he not study the people's habits,

purses, pockets, tastes? And don't you think we ought to vary our programme more, to catch the different types of men? We are not catering, surely, for the men we have got? We are certain of them. Why not cater for those outside, for the multitudes who are quite willing to come to church if we lay our plans to catch them? Why should not the evening service be given up to a downright, definite attack upon the neighborhood, with everybody upon the job? These are points worth considering."

**A Warning.**—One of our ministers writes a strong letter of warning concerning certain books which profess to afford helps for Epworth Leaguers. He says: "Some time ago, while visiting in the home of one of our Methodist families, I was shown a book called 'The Divine Plan of the Ages,' which had been specially recommended to them for Bible study. In fact, it was stated in the preface that it would be found very helpful to Epworth League and Christian Endeavor Societies. Upon examining the book, I found that it was published by The Watchtower Tract and Publishing House, the official publishing house for the Millennial Dawn Movement of the Latter Day Saints. The Bible studies and outlines, which were quite orthodox at the beginning of the book, gradually led to the exposition of the doctrines of above society."

This warning is timely. Our people should be very careful not to purchase books of irresponsible parties of whom they know nothing, especially when so much wholesome and safe literature is available.

**Home Again.**—Our readers will be glad that Dr. and Mrs. F. C. Stephenson have returned from their trip to the Old Land, greatly benefitted by the rest and change. The Doctor looks like a new man, and is again entering upon his work with the old-time enthusiasm and hopefulness. His friends are urging upon him the desirability of conserving his strength and not overdoing it in his zeal for the missionary cause.

**District Conventions.** The District Conventions held thus far this fall have been full of profit and inspiration. The General Secretary is attending as many of them as possible, but he cannot be in two places at the same time. District Secretaries are requested to send brief reports, together with lists of new officers, to this office, promptly.