

The Reading Course

Suggestive Questions.

For the benefit of those who have not had much experience in conducting a Reading Circle the following questions have been prepared. They will suggest many others. It will perhaps be better if all the circles study "Famous English Statesmen," and "The Apostle of the North," first.

FAMOUS ENGLISH STATESMEN.

Chapters 1, 2, 3.

1. What were the personal characteristics of Sir Robert Peel as a young man?
2. What influence had ambition upon his future?
3. What did Peel do for Ireland?
4. Name the reforms in criminal law effected by Peel.
5. Name, and characterize some of the leading Irishmen who fought for Catholic emancipation.
6. What did Peel do for education?
7. Name some of the injustices under which Ireland suffered.
8. What was the general condition of the Irish people in 1842?
9. What were the Corn Laws?
10. What did the Duke of Wellington say of Peel's character?
11. Describe Palmerston as a speaker.
12. What did Palmerston do for Belgium?
13. Sketch the Crimean war.
14. What is the most notable name that has come down to us from the Crimean war?
15. Describe the Charge of the Light Brigade.
16. What sort of man was Shaftesbury, personally?
17. What did Shaftesbury do for the inmates of lunatic asylums?
18. What were the conditions of laborers in factories in Shaftesbury's time?
19. What claim has Shaftesbury to be known as "The Children's Friend"?
20. What was Shaftesbury's attitude in relation to the Opium war?
21. What did he do for shorter hours for working people?
22. What other philanthropic work did he inaugurate?

SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION.

1. The evils of party strife.
2. Is war justifiable?
3. Character sketch: Florence Nightingale.

THE "APOSTLE OF THE NORTH."

1. Give illustrations of the truth that when God wants a man for a peculiar work He knows where to find him.
2. Give some account of the early life of James Evans.
3. Who was Gideon Onseley?
4. Mention the co-laborers of Evans.
5. Give a brief account of Evans' work at Rice Lake.
6. Who was John Sunday?
7. Tell what you know of Peter Jacobs.
8. When did Mr. Evans go to Norway House?
9. What Indian tribe inhabited the neighborhood of Norway House?
10. What were the religious beliefs of the people?
11. Who was Maskepetoon?
12. How were women treated among the Indians?
13. How did Evans' mechanical skill help his missionary work?

Better and Larger.

A correspondent from Galt writes: "The two Reading Circles in connection with Galt Epworth League have been re-organized. 'Epworth' is under the presidency of Mr. John Taylor, jun., and Mr. J. B. Lobb is in charge of 'Aeneas' Circle. Both Circles are bound to be better and larger than last year.' The books are very popular."

This is just the sort of news that we would expect from Galt.

Mrs. Sarah K. Bolton.

Members of our Reading Circles will be interested in knowing something of the author of "Famous English Statesmen," who has made quite a name for herself in the literary world.

Mrs. Sarah Knowles Bolton comes from good New England ancestry. She was graduated from the Hartford Seminary, established by Catharine Beecher; published a volume of poems, and in 1866 married Charles E. Bolton, A.M., of Massachusetts, an Amherst College graduate of '65. They removed to Cleveland, O., where, besides writing for various periodicals, she did much



MRS. SARAH K. BOLTON.

charitable work. She was secretary of the Woman's Christian Association, and Asst. Cor. Sec. of the Nat. W.C.T.U. She has twice visited Europe, spending two years in England, France, Italy, Germany, Russia, Norway and Sweden, studying literary and educational matters, and the means used by employers for the mental and moral elevation of their employees. On the latter subject she read a paper before the American Social Science Association in 1883. She was for three years one of the editors of the Boston *Congregationalist*. She prepared several small books for the Cleveland Educational Bureau, conducted gratuitously by her husband, and described by Dr. Washington Gladden in the *Century Magazine*. The Bureau was discontinued when Mr. Bolton gave his time to lecturing. Miss Frances E. Willard says of Mrs. Bolton, "She is one of the best-informed women in America, the chief woman biographer of our times."

The Reading Circle in connection with the Oakville Epworth League was re-organized Oct. 4th. Rev. D. A. Moir was elected President, and Miss J. Fairfield, Secretary. Fourteen have already joined and more to follow.

A Week with the Reading Course.

The League of Bell Street Church, Ottawa, has taken a unique method of introducing the Reading Course, and interesting the members in the books.

Four week-evening meetings were held, following a Sunday of special services on October 7th.

On Monday evening, Rev. W. H. Stevens introduced "Famous English Statesmen," in an address on "Self-Effort." Special reference was made to Lord Shaftesbury, and the speaker pointed out that whatever disadvantages we may labor under, if we only persevere we may also attain a like measure of success. On Tuesday evening, after a prayer service, led by W. T. Ellis, Rev. Ernest Thomas, of Metcalfe, reviewed Horace G. Grosz's book, "Out with the Old Voyagers." Mr. Thomas gave a scholarly review of the book, and kept his audience spellbound while he carried them with him through its pages, as he told them, not to spare them the trouble of reading it for themselves, but rather to stimulate them to give it deeper study to find out the message of the author, and to discover the merits and defects of the book. Wednesday night opened with a testimony meeting, led by R. Baird, after which Rev. A. T. Jones, of Billings Bridge, took up "Canadian Citizenship," and gave a stirring address on the subject. After dealing with the question of citizenship and the duties pertaining to it, the speaker pointed out that there were three great evils we as citizens of this fair Dominion have to fight against—1st, Sabbath desecration; 2nd, gambling; 3rd, the liquor traffic—and he made an earnest plea that all Leaguers would be true citizens and strive, by God's help, for the abolition of all three.

Thursday, the closing meeting of the series, opened with a verse of scripture; meeting led by John L. Spence, at the conclusion of which our pastor, Rev. W. J. Wood, addressed the meeting on "The Apostle of the North—James Evans." Mr. Wood spoke of the difficulties and trials of James Evans, and also touched on his triumph, pointing out the lessons we may draw from his life, and appealed to those present to strive to follow in James Evans' footsteps. Whether we are missionaries or whatever our calling in life may be, let us, like him, strive to be the best. The meetings were most successful throughout, and the object aimed at in the preparation of the services accomplished. The interest of the members in the Epworth League reading course has been largely increased, all express a wish to read the books, many have already sent in their orders for them, and we trust that during the coming winter season the study of the books will bring pleasure and profit to all, and that the desire for a higher class of literature will be greatly increased by the study of this year's reading course.

W. T. E.

"Better Than Ever."

The *Missionary Outlook* says that this year's Epworth League Reading Course is an improvement upon any of its predecessors, and that appears to be the general opinion. Certainly we have never before offered such great value for \$2.00. We depend upon the Epworth Leagues to help circulate these excellent volumes. Let circles be formed wherever practicable, and where there is no circle, the books should be placed in the League or Sunday school Library, so that all the members may have the opportunity of reading them. A Methodist Young People's Society without at least one set of these books is sadly behind the times.

A copy of the pamphlet, "How to Organize and Conduct a Reading Circle," will be sent free to all who ask for it. Address, Rev. A. C. Crews, Wesley Building, Toronto.