

Shaftesbury Mail

WEEKLY

BULLETIN

PUBLISHED BY THE
TORONTO YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.



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No. 57.

When thou
passest
through the waters.
I will be with thee;
and through the
rivers, they shall not
overflow thee: when
thou walkest
through the fire, thou
shalt not be burned;
neither shall the
flame kindle upon
thee.

Isaiah xliii. 2

BULLETIN FUND.

Workers	\$1 70
"Eureka"	5 00

OUR NEW SECRETARY.

WHO is it to be? That is a question asked each day, but we are not in a position to give a definite reply. Whoever it may be, the workers may rest assured that there will be little if any change made in the methods of work.

The work will without doubt be directed by the Board, and also by the man of their choice, so that "the world, the flesh and the Devil" will find the Association still on the aggressive.

BLESSING.

EACH passing day reveals fresh instances of conversion resulting from the recent services held in our city. On Monday night, a social gathering is to be held in our Rooms, when, by invitation of the Committee of the Moody Convention, the young converts will assemble to receive words of counsel from the pastors and others. Through the kindness of Mr. W. Gooderham, a copy of one of Mr. Moody's works will be given to each in attendance. Nearly two hundred invitations have been sent out to those whose names are in posses-

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee.

Isaiah xxvi 3.

Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.—Isaiah xxxvi 4.

sion of the Committee. Should this meet the eye of any person who has been benefitted by the meetings—but whose name may not have reached the Committee—we trust that such person will make it a point to attend.

BIBLE CLASS

FOR S. S. TEACHERS,

Conducted by Mr. S. H. Blake,

EVERY SATURDAY,

AT 4.30 P.M.

Subject—INTERNATIONAL LESSON.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

THE Secretary has in his possession a collection of Foreign Stamps, given to him to be used as he might think best. The collection embraces over 2,000 varieties—many very rare, including over 100 post cards. The whole neatly mounted in one of Scott & Co.'s latest editions of International Album, beautifully bound. The arms and flags of each nation, printed in gold and colors, appear on each page, also photo portraits of the sovereigns. This collection cost the owner about \$100. It will be sold at \$45. The proceeds to be devoted to our work. It may be seen at the rooms.

YOUNG MEN'S MEETING

Every Saturday Evening,

AT 8 O'CLOCK, FOR ONE HOUR.

COME

PROFANE JESTING.

Jeremy Taylor, one of the most eloquent writers of the English language, rich in imagination, fervent in feeling, copious and forcible in words—has the following striking passage about profane jesting:

"But of all the abuses which ever dishonoured the tongues of men, nothing more deserves the whip of an exterminating angel, or the stings of scorpions, than profane jesting; which is a bringing of the Spirit of God to partake of the follies of a man; as if it were not enough for a man to be a fool, but the wisdom of God must be brought into those horrible scenes. He that makes a jest of the words of Scripture; or of holy things, plays with thunder, and kisses the mouth of a cannon just as it belches fire and death; he stakes heaven at spurn-point, and trips cross and pile,* whether ever he shall see the face of God or no; he laughs at damnation, while he had rather lose God than lose his jest; nay (which is the horror of all), he makes a jest of God himself, and the Spirit of the Father and the Son to become ridiculous. Some men used to read Scripture on their knees, and many with their heads uncovered, and all good men with fear and trembling, with reverence and grave attention. 'Search the Scriptures, for therein ye hope to have life eternal,' and 'All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is fit for instruction, for reproof, for exhortation, for doctrine, not for jesting; but he that makes that use of it, had better part with his eyes in jest, and give his heart to make a tennis-ball."

Those burning words of Jeremy Taylor against profane jesting should be laid to heart by all who have let themselves fall into the way of using Scripture words lightly.

*Two ancient games of chance; the latter answering to our "Heads or tails."

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart.—Psalm xxxvii, 4.

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.—Psalm xxxvii. 5.

A ridiculous application of Bible words is not easily forgotten. When, on some serious occasion, those words are heard, or read again, that foolish use of them will come back to the mind; and so the solemn force of the words may be lessened or lost.

This evil habit, too, is catching. A joke that takes in one company is likely to be repeated in another; and he who uses Scripture thus knows not how many of his hearers he may be encouraging to do the same. On every ground, this habit may be classed with the "foolish talking" and "jesting, which are not convenient," not right or fitting.

X.

[We add our testimony to the baneful effect of such jesting. Many years ago a Christian man, while passing through Montreal, visited the Y. M. C. A. in that city, and in conversation made use of passages of Scripture, changing and applying the same in such a ridiculous manner that from that day to the present we have not been able to use that text with any degree of freedom, for the absurdity of the man's application is ever before us.—Ed.]

THE GREAT MASTER.



AM my own master!" cried a young man proudly, when a friend tried to persuade him from an enterprise which he had on hand, "I am my own master!"

"Did you ever consider what a responsible post that is?" asked his friend.

"Responsible? Is it?"

"A master must lay out the work which he wants done, and see that it is done right. He should try to secure the best ends by the best means. He must keep on the lookout against obstacles and accidents, and watch that everything goes straight, else he must fail."

"Well."

"To be master of yourself, you have your conscience to keep clear, your

heart to cultivate, your temper to govern, you will to direct, and your judgment to instruct. You are master over a hard lot, and if you don't master them they will master you."

"That is so," said the young man.

"Now, I could undertake no such thing," said his friend. "I should fail sure, if I did. Saul wanted to be his own master and failed. Herod did. Judas did. No man is fit for it. 'One is my master, even Christ.' I work, under His direction. He is regulator, and where He is master all goes right."

"'One is my master, even Christ'" repeated the young man, slowly and seriously; "everybody who puts himself sincerely under His leadership wins at last."

ADVANTAGES.

Advantages possessed by the Christian revelation over all other religions:—

In its perfection. Every system of philosophy has been improved; the Christian, because from God, has always been, and now is, incapable of improvement.

In its openness. There is nothing hidden; no secret mysteries; no shirking from public examination; it openly challengeth enquiry.

In its adaptation to the capacities of all men, of every country and clime, of every rank and age.

In the spirituality of its worship. "They who worship, must worship in spirit and in truth."

In its opposition to the spirit of this world.

In its humiliation of man and exaltation of God. "He must increase, but I must decrease."

In its tendency to eradicate all evil passions from the heart.

In its restoration of God's image to man.

In its vast effects already produced over the world.

Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak; for your work shall be rewarded.—2 Chron. xv. 7.

YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

Every **MONDAY** Evening,

AT 8 O'CLOCK,

Conducted by the **GENERAL SECRETARY.**

THE CAUTIOUS DOG.

MANY years ago, the Rev. William Howells, of London, Eng., told a story of a dog belonging to a friend of his, who regularly accompanied them as they walked together. One evening the dog strayed away from them, and was taken up by a stranger, who was carrying him off but being perceived, the dog was rescued and brought back to his master.

It was always observed that ever afterwards, when *near the same place*, the poor dog always kept very close to *his master* and his friend.

The lesson is obvious. We have had our dangers and our deliverances, our wanderings and our returnings. Let us, then when we approach scenes or circumstances which have proved ensnaring, keep close to our Master's side. First Peter followed afar off; then he denied his Lord, and cursed and swore. Our adversary watches the least departure from the Lord, and seeks to effect our ruin. Only the Shepherd of Israel, who never slumbers nor sleeps, can save us from destruction. Blessed be His name, He will not forget His little flock.

EVANGELISTIC

BIBLE CLASS

Every **SUNDAY**, at 3 p.m.

Conducted by **MR. H. B. GORDON,**

Chairman of Devotional Committee.

ALL INVITED.

BULLETIN FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14.

Bible Class at 3 p.m., and Gospel and Song Service at 8.30, followed by an Enquiry Meeting at 9.15. All invited.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 15.

12 noon.—Thanksgiving and Praise-Meeting. The Secretary.

8 p.m.—**YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS.**

9 p.m.—Young Men's Prayer and Testimony Meeting.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16.

12 to 12.45 noon.—God's Promise to the Obedient. Isa. i. 19; Rev. xxii. 14; 1 John iii. 23, 24. R. Merryfield.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17.

12 to 12.45 noon.—Failing to "Forsake All" for Christ. Luke ix. 57-62; xiv 33. S. R. Briggs.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18.

12 to 12.45 noon.—God Casts Down and God Lifts Up. 1 Sam. ii. 7-10; Ps. lxxv 7. J. J. Gartshore.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19.

12 to 12.45 noon.—The Gospel Call and the Result of Persistent Refusal. Rev. xxii. 17; Heb. iii. 15; Prov. i. 24-33. W. Marks.
7.30 p.m.—**BOY'S MEETING**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20.

12 to 12.45 noon.—A Life Opening with Promise, but Ending with Failure. 1 Kings iii. 6-15; xi. 4-12. Assistant Secretary.

7.15 p.m.—Invitation Committee Meets for Prayer.

8 p.m.—**YOUNG MEN'S MEETING.** H. B. Gordon.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21.

3.00 p.m.—Evangelistic Bible Class. H. B. Gordon.

" Deaf Mute Class. F. S. Brigden.

" Chinese Class. W. M. Morse.

" Italian Class.

8.30 p.m.—Gospel and Song Service. H. O'Brien. Followed by an Enquiry Meeting at 9.15.

Requests for prayer may be addressed to the Sec'y.

Railway Men's Meeting.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21.

3 p.m.—Union Station. A. Saunders and R. Connors.