

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

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Lend a Hand.

Will the ministers who promised to write for The Young People's department kindly do so?

We will be glad to hear from all the Secretaries, telling us what their societies are doing.

Also we would like to have short and pointed suggestions on the work of any of the committees. Methods that have helped in your Society work will help somebody else. If you have a good thing, pass it along.

D. A. VANWART Woodstock Ch. Press Com.

The C. E. Hand--The Social Committee.

BY MISS LAURA EITMAN.

There are some strangely wise and observant persons who read in the hand of a stranger what we who are less keen, will learn only through acquaintance. That prominent characteristics of the disposition are portrayed in the hand, is something we do not consider, and yet it is true.

We sigh for beautiful, shapely hands, not that they may be the index to a perfect heart, for purity of soul may be legibly written on a brown, horny hand, as on a small white one.

If the observing world judges us so, what think you should be the features of the C. E. hand to reflect truly the beautiful mind of the Christian Endeavor? We have all heard of the beautiful hands that were neither white nor small, but were fair because of noble service and loving deeds, and such, I ween must be the hands of Christian Endeavor,--crossed and recrossed by the lines of love.

As a sculptor would model after a slender, white palm and tapering fingers with rosy tips, so an artist might choose pale, languid faces and dreamy eyes if he wished to photograph your committee. But as mere pictures are not the mission of any Endeavor, and the very name denies their ability to become cold chiseled marble, the charm of the C. E. hand lies in its strength and skill to labor.

And what do we understand by its labor? The Master's work, to be sure--winning souls. For the members of the social committee must just as surely be jewel gatherers for the King as the Lookout or Prayer meeting committees, but in their own peculiar way, for have we not many members in one body and all members have not the same office.

Do you remember when you first heard it said that man was created social being? God saw that it was not good for man to be alone, so gave him a companion, and together they went astray. Since then, the story of companionship in sin, has been daily repeated. Few go to heaven or hell alone, we travel in companies one way or the other. When Satan wins one soul, he knows it means the victory multiplied, for "no man liveth to himself and no man dieth to himself." If there is ever a time when a man is unfit to meet temptation, it is when he is lonely, and ruin, in the guise of friendship ensnares him, when salvation, in the same guise, might have won him to life had the Christian but made the effort.

It is to meet this that the social committee must be prepared, it is the hand outstretched to help over these dangerous places, and must cope with the social committees that sin has stationed on all sides. Not that "social" and "sinful" are synonymous terms, and young Christians are not insensible to friendship and good "times" though they fail to find its gratification in clinking glasses, and the gaieties of the world. Some of the brightest members on the roll must compose the committee; veritable sunbeams they are whose rays of light have no occasion to glimmer through the crevices of a bushel. If their tactics are successful, they arouse the Endeavorers to a mutual inter-

est in each other, and in the out- sider! and the outsider an interest in the Endeavorers. Accompanying the invitation to come to the social, is the invitation to come to the Endeavor prayer meeting, and underlying both is the invitation come to Christ.

Think not that the C. E. Hand is merely an attachment for holding the money bag, and is extended only for contributions. Not every effort will reap to Christian Endeavor its financial reward, but better treasures will fall into that out- stretched palm. Christian Endeavor must have no shade of worldliness attached to her garments, and to gratify the desires of the social nature without the after taste of gall, or the sting of guilt is by no means an unworthy service. But the work is not done when the last guest has departed from the social gathering, for other duties await the untiring hand, that knows no resting hour.

"The captive's ear may rest upon the galley, The soldier sleep beneath his plumed crest, And peace may fold her wing o'er hill and valley. But thou, O Christian, must not take thy rest."

Sociability must not confine itself to a crowd, and a word for Christ need not always consist in a class meeting recital of how many years you have traveled the good old road. A sunny chat, in His name, may sometimes prove just as well your Christian experience. Souls are held more often than we think by a cordially extended hand, and as go astray for lack of it, I do not know but he who so reflects the sunshine of God's love, and smiles a soul into heaven, will be as richly rewarded as though he had preached that soul there.

And who can measure the good of a handshake, if given in the right way? Someone has observed that "the hand and the fist are identical, but that it makes a mighty difference which a man shakes."

Well, the difference is almost as great in the way one shakes the hand. There isn't very much cordiality in the tips of the fingers, neither is the pump handle action entirely satisfactory but a warm, hearty grasp of the hand, with a genial face and kindly word is almost irresistible.

Then let the C. E. Hand scatter freely these cheap but invaluable influences; these mustard seeds that are the kingdom of heaven. Be not sparing with the word, the smile, the grasp of the hand, though results may not almost be apparent. Nature gives us a hundred blossoms for one apple, but do not pluck the flower, for you may be destroying the fruit. Then do not withhold a blessing from the tree of love, for it may be the fruit of an immortal soul.

The Christian Endeavor Pledge.

BY ELLA L. DENKINSAT.

This pledge is broad and comprehensive, strong and exacting, yet tender and loving. It is the declaration of young hearts avowing their allegiance to a God of Love, and expressing their dependence for support upon a higher power. This Pledge is the foundation upon which all true Christian Endeavor is built unless we enter honestly and earnestly into the spirit of it, we can not succeed as Endeavorers.

Tasting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength. No self assurance of holding out faithful, but a trust that the dear Lord will give us strength to withstand all temptations.

I promise him that I will strive to do whatever he would have me do. I will make it a rule of my life to pray and read the Bible every day. Should an earthly parent die, having a will, his child would never think of trying to carry out that will without first reading and carefully studying it, just so with the will of our blessed Master, how can we promise to do whatever he would have us do, without studying that will, not reading his Testament, just for the sake of going over so many verses or chapters, but praying as we read, that he may give us a perfect understanding.

And to support my own Church in every way, especially by attending all her regular Sunday and mid-week services, unless prevented by some reason which I can conscientiously give to my Saviour.

To keep in perfect and constant touch with the Church is the duty of every Endeavor. Has not the Saviour acknowledged the Church as his bride? Could any organization ever come quite so close to him?

To separate the Endeavor and the Church, would be spiritual death to the Endeavor. Indeed the Endeavor is but the Church at work through her young people, then all the meetings of the Church should be especially dear to the heart of the Endeavorer.

As an active member I promise

to be true to all my duties, to be present at and take part aside from the singing, in every Christian Endeavor prayer meeting, unless hindered by some reason which I can conscientiously give to my Lord and Master. This part of the Pledge is especially trying to young Endeavorers, yet it is absolutely necessary to their spiritual growth. Oftentimes we think we haven't the strength to perform the duties assigned us, but let us remember trust is not in our own strength, but in the Lord Jesus Christ, and the blessing will surely follow. As our Pledge requires, let us fail not to be present at each consecration meeting. Consecrating ourselves anew to the Lord, praying that our imperfect service may be each month made more acceptable. Let us never absent ourselves from these meetings, unless we have an excuse which we are willing to give our Master.

If we do this how few vacant seats would be among us

Yet there are circumstances, under which, it would be more Christlike to stay away than to attend. Though in that event let us, through the kindness of some friend send a verse of scripture, to be read in response to our name at roll call, reminding our brothers and sisters in the Lord, that though we are obliged to be absent from them in the body, our fond spirit is dwelling ever near them.

Let each one of us, ever keep this solemn and sacred Pledge in mind. Write it upon the table of our hearts and let it shine out in our lives, that the world may know, ours is a joyous labor of love for the Father in Heaven.

"For Christ and the Church," willing offerings made, Time and Talents and Gold for the dear Master's sake; We will render the best we can bring unto Him, The heart's wealth of love that will never grow dim."

The Helpful Endeavorer.

How may I be helpful in the Christian Endeavor Society and also in my every day life is what many Christians are asking? Every one has felt a difference in the spirit on a meeting led by one person to that led by another.

What is the difference? Is it not that the one is so filled with the Christian spirit of helpfulness that every day in countless ways he cheers and helps others and when he leads a meeting everyone cannot help but feel that the true Christian spirit is leading him. While the other one, although wishing to help, lets every-day cares worry him so the Christian Spirit is crowded out and he feels that he is helping no one not even himself. And when he leads in a meeting not having the right spirit himself he cannot give to others.

Then to help others he must see that he has the right spirit himself.

We all know how much the kind loving word and loving look helps when one is tired and worried. So if we cultivate this Christian spirit we are sure to help others.

The Habit of Kindness

I know of a home in which the very atmosphere is so charged with hallowed loving-kindness that it is a delight to be a guest therein. I have been a guest in that home for weeks at a time, and I never heard a single harsh, unkind word spoken to or about any one. One day I said to the sweet and gentle mistress--

Do tell me, if you can the secret of the beautiful and unflinching kindness that forms a part of the very atmosphere of this home.

Why, I do not know that there is any secret about it. It is a kind of a habit with us, you know that some people fall into the habit of always complaining; others form the habit of always speaking sharply; while still others are habitually morose, and sulk continually. Now, it is just as easy to form a good habit as a bad habit; and, if one would only think so, it is just as easy to form the habit of kindness as it is to form the habit of unkindness. When I was a little girl at home, my father had his children sing nearly every day,

Oh, say a kind word if you can, And you can, and you can, Oh, say a kind word if you can, And you can, and you can.

If any one spoke an unkind word in the house, some one would be sure to sing these lines, and so we came to speak kindly nearly all the time. So much happiness came from it that I resolved when I came into the possession of a home of my own the habitual kindness should be the rule there.

It is a rule that will bring peace and joy to any home, and, as I said before, any one can cultivate the habit of kindness.

A Missionary Dog

One night in the Scottish highlands, when the snow was deep upon the mountain side, a shepherd found that two of his flock were still out in the storm. Calling his faithful collie, or shepherd's dog, he roused her from her warm kennel where she was lying with her young, and pointing through the open door he held up two fingers and said, "Go." Well she understood his meaning, and gave one pitiful look at her litter of pups, and then one appealing glance at him, but there was no relenting in his look. Quietly and promptly she passed out through the open door in the dark and winter night. It was late in the night when the shepherd was roused by a scratching on the door, and as he opened it, there was one of the lost sheep, and the tired dog dragged herself through the door and lay down once more in her kennel with her young. He carefully nursed the tired sheep, and then pointing his finger through the open door, he called: "One is still lost. Go!"

Tenderly she gazed once more at her little brood, pleadingly she gazed into the shepherd's eyes and seemed to say, "Must I go again?" But still there was no reprieve in that glance. There was but one message and that was, "Go." And slowly she dragged herself again to the door and went forth into the darkness. The dawn had come before the shepherd was again awakened to find the lost sheep there, and the poor dog scarcely able to drag herself to her corner and lie down to die. As she pressed her little one to her breast and gasped out her last breath, he gently patted her head, and tried his best to say, "Good and gentle servant, you did your best." She was but a dog. For her there was no heaven, no crown of bright reward, no higher motive than obedience. Beloved, with so much more for us shall we be less faithful than a shepherd's dog?

Life Hints

Find your purpose and fling your life out to it. Try to be somebody with all your might.

What is put into the first of life is put into the whole of life. Start right.

The first thing to do, if you have not done so, is to fall in love with your work.

Don't brood over the past nor dream of the future; but seize the instant and get your lesson from the hour.

Necessity is the priceless spur. Give a youth resolution and the alphabet, and who shall place limits to his career?

Don't wait for extraordinary opportunities; seize common occasions and make them great. A great opportunity will only make you ridiculous unless you are prepared for it.

The lucky man is the man who sees and grasps his opportunity. The world always listens to a man with a will.--Success.

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Brave and Tender

A year or two ago there was a shipwreck at St. Margaret's Bay, England; and the life-line brought sailor after sailor to shore, amid the cheers of the rescuers. At last only the captain remained on board. The line was ready, the signal was given; but the answering jerk did not come. Again and again, for a quarter of an hour, the question passed along the line without reply. At last, when hope was nearly dead, the signal came; and the captain was hauled, dripping, to shore. He picked himself up, drew a small, wet, quivering dog from his breast pocket, and set it tenderly down. Then he looked around, and said in simple apology, "I couldn't find the little brute anywhere!"

Use what talent you possess. The work of the world is done mostly by ordinary ability while geniuses are waiting for splendid opportunities.

No matter if you are hidden in an obscure post, never content yourself with doing your second best, however unimportant the occasion. --G. n. Phil. Sheridan.

HANDICAPPED.

The man who started to run a race in chains and fetters would be visibly handicapped. No one would expect him to succeed. The man who runs the race of life when his digestive and nutritive organs are diseased is equally handicapped. In the one case his strength is over-weighted, in the other it is undermined. Success demands above all else a sound stomach.



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