

Our Young People

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THE C. E. TOPIC.

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

DECEMBER 20.—A VISION OF WORLD-WIDE PEACE.—Isa. 11:6-9; 9:6.

The vision of peace that Isaiah saw has been seen ever since by all of earth's loftiest spirits. Julia Ward Howe, who sung "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," has also sung in her old age:

Let the crimson flood retreat;
Blended in the arc of love
Let the flags of nations meet;
Bind the raven, loose the dove.
Blinding passion is subdued.
Men discern their common birth;
God hath made of mankind blood
All the peoples of the earth.

And yet the vision of peace, after all these centuries, is still far from being realized. The annual cost of the armies of Europe maintained in time of peace is one thousand million dollars, and the annual payment of interest on war debts and other expenses growing out of past wars is an equal amount.

This enormous price of folly continues to be paid. In the one recent year, 1900, nearly a thousand million dollars was added to the war debt of the world. The year before the Spanish War the United States paid for pensions more than \$147,000,000—seven times the income of all her colonies. A single battleship, it has been said, cost as much as all the ninety-four buildings of Harvard University; the battleship is likely to be sunk in a moment in time of war, and degenerates constantly in peace so that new battleships must continually be built at a cost rapidly increasing. As Longfellow sung:

Were half the power that fills the world
with terror,
Were half the wealth bestowed on
camps and courts,
Given to redeem the human mind from
error,
There were no need of arsenals or
forts.

The worst cost of war is in character. Young men are taken at the critical period of their lives and placed in an unproductive employment, often in the midst of temptations to evil that destroy their souls. This even when there is no war, while in time of war the agony of

innumerable parents, children, sisters, wives, passes all comprehension.

It is astonishing that the world should have waited all these centuries to find a better way, but the day of peace has dawned. In 1901 a Permanent International Court of Arbitration was established at The Hague. Twenty-one of the leading nations of the world are there represented. In 1902 all the South and Central American countries asked for admission to the court. Already it has entered upon its great work, the first case to be tried being a difficulty between the United States and Mexico.

Trust in Love's armies! though silent as
Heav'n,

They are sworn to defend;

Put up thy sword in its sheath! for be-
hold,

Thy foe is thy friend!

How Has the Church Been Benefited by the C. E. Movement?

(Address delivered by M. L. Gregg, at the F. B. Y. P. L., 1903.)

That the Christian church has been benefitted by the C. E. movement no one can successfully deny. But the C. E. movement is no "has been." Its helpfulness to the church is increasing year by year. Most of us are older than the C. E. movement, or at least as old. However, it is no weakling; it is of age, strong and enthusiastic.

Twenty-two years ago it began in one church in Portland, with Rev. F. E. Clarke as founder, and a few consecrated young men and young women as members. "Give us something to do," was their earnest prayer.

Sparks of this heavenly fire have been so scattered by the sweep of the Holy Spirit's blessing that the Christian church has been kindled anew with the love and zeal of God. Although beginning with but a few, it has increased to a mighty host, "that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the noon, clear as the sun, and terrible as an army with banners."

We speak of the Sunday-school as "the nursery of the church." That church has a very dark future, indeed, that has no Sunday-school. A child is born in a home. The parents are very careful and watchful until it begins to talk and walk. Then let it run wild? No. The child should then be trained. Yet we bring the children into the Sunday-school, and just as they begin to sing for Jesus and to walk in his ways, they are neglected; just here they need the help and training of the C. E. Society.

Military schools and militia camps are established all over this country. "A waste of time and money," some one says. Is it? No. Our young men are here disciplined and trained to defend our flag and country.

Think of the thousands of C. E. Societies. Dare we say, "It is a waste of time and effort and money?" No. Here the youth of our churches are trained and disciplined to defend the glorious banner of Immanuel, and are consecrated to service "for Christ and the church."

The problems that perplexed the minds and pained the hearts of Christian ministers were, "How shall we reach the young people?" "How shall we keep the young people in the church?" Who shall take the place of our church-members when they are gone?

The C. E. movement has brought the best answers to these questions. And they are, to-day, in the different churches

of Christendom nearly eleven million young people, with bright faces, earnest hearts and splendid talents, who have fully yielded themselves to the Christ and have covenanted thus with him. "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, we promise him that we will strive to do whatever he would like us do." This brings me to my next thought.

MAKING RELIGION PRACTICAL.

The C. E. movement helps to show how Christ's religion may be adapted to every-day life. Not how religion may be lowered, but how our lives may be heightened.

People were content with their names on the church book; church-members had the idea that religion was something to be kept locked up all through the week, lest a speck of dust fall upon it. Such people thought they should carefully take it out and wear it around their necks on Sunday as a magic charm, and Monday morning lay it away again.

Talk about eight-day clocks and alarm clocks! Some people must have their religious clocks so cleverly constructed that the alarm of conscience only goes off one day out of seven—Sunday—and then they rouse themselves and come out to church all neat and pious looking, or, perhaps, they read a chapter from the Bible and then sing a long meter hymn, or may even go so far as to call upon some sick person. Wouldn't it be blessed if their alarm clock went off every morning?

The idea of church members wrapping themselves up in themselves, thinking only of themselves, and working only for themselves, without thinking of some sad one, praying for some weak one, speaking to some anxious one, visiting some sick or troubled one, or ministering to that one in need!

Christ is our Example. "He went about doing good." He came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life for many.

The C. E. movement is earnestly striving to illuminate these teachings in the Christian church by example as well as precept.

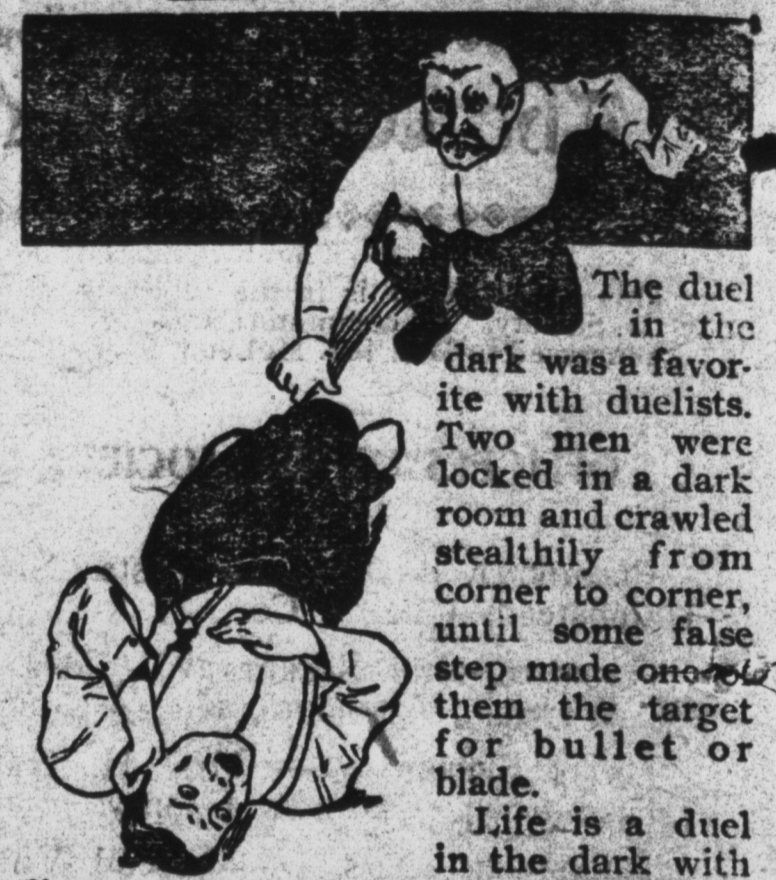
Endeavorers, Christ is speaking to us. Listen: "Do you believe in me? Am I worthy of your trust and service? Have I proven to you the power of love and sacrifice?"

"Can you believe in my mission. I came, I came down from my highest throne, down from heaven's gate, passed comets swifter than they on my mission of mercy, descended starry paths, came down—down to your world—an empty camel's stall only was given me—a manger only was offered for my cradle. I humbled myself, I left the untold riches—the full coffers of heaven—and for your sake became poor."

"When twelve legions of angels were ready to leap from their starry thrones and smite my adversaries, I preferred to stand alone, to meet all temptations that I might be able to succor all that are tempted."

"My mission is one of mercy to all the guilty, pardon to all condemned, peace to all disturbed minds, comfort to all troubled hearts, and rest to all weary souls. To heal the broken in heart, to minister to the poor, to carry consolation to rooms of sickness and death, and to stand among all mourning ones, who look into an open grave, and tell them that I have gone to the bottom of every grave and because I live their loved ones shall live also; this is my mission."

"Do you believe in my method? The



The duel in the dark was a favorite with duelists. Two men were locked in a dark room and crawled stealthily from corner to corner, until some false step made one of them the target for bullet or blade. Life is a duel in the dark with disease. One false step, one mistake, and the attack comes swift and sudden. The mistake which commonly opens the way for an attack by disease is neglect of the symptoms of stomach trouble. When eating is followed by undue fullness, belchings, sour or bitter risings, etc., disease is attacking the stomach. The best way to frustrate such an attack is to use Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It cures diseases of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition, and makes the body strong and healthy.

"I was suffering very much with my head and stomach," writes Mrs. W. C. Gill, of Weldon, Shelby Co., Ala. "head was so dizzy when I would raise up in bed would fall right back. Could eat but very little, in fact scarcely anything, there seemed to be a heavy weight in my stomach so I could not rest. I had to belch very often and would vomit up nearly everything I ate. I was in a bad condition. I took four bottles of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and five of his 'Favorite Prescription' and am now well and hearty. I feel like a new woman and give Dr. Pierce's medicines credit for it all. I had taken medicine from physicians without any benefit as I could see."

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