

Our Young People

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THE C. E. TOPIC.

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

JANUARY 3.—THE KIND OF GROWTH I NEED IN 1904. Eph. 4: 11-16.

No one but a fool makes fun of New Year's resolutions. They have rescued many a life from the down-grade and turned it steadfastly upward. God bless them, and God help us to make more of them, and keep them all!

There are five New Year's resolutions we may well make in this week's Endeavor meeting, five kinds of growth we may determine to seek.

First, let it be *planned* growth. Most of us live hap-hazard lives. "A man," says Dr. Conwell, "is both soil and seed. Our lives are vacant lots, and we can choose the seed we put in." Most of us let it go like the vacant lots in a city and allow our lives to lie open for any seed the winds may sow. Let us be wise farmers this year and plan what we will raise upon our life lots.

Second, resolve for *symmetrical* growth. Well-rounded lives are few. Most of us are developed only in one direction, the physical, or the social, or the literary, or perhaps the religious. If we want to grow on the neglected sides, we must bear in mind Beecher's parable. "If I would have a tree grow upon the south side," said Beecher, "I must cut off the branches there." Severity, strenuous toil, the enduring hardness will alone throw our life-sap in the neglected directions, and render our growth more symmetrical.

Third, let us resolve for *courageous* growth. Never mind about your failures. Forget even your sins. Just determine to grow in spite of them, and they will fall back before your out-reaching energies. You have seen dead leaves that have adhered all winter to the frozen branches? Let but the stirrings of spring start the buds, and they as they grow, will speedily push off the dead leaves. So will it be with the "deadbody" of your failures, mistakes and sins, if this new growth once takes possession of your life.

Fourth, resolve for *permanent* growth. Once two architects in New York, occupying the same office, were engaged on very different tasks. One was designing for Montreal a magnificent ice palace, that was the wonder and delight of all who saw it, but melted away as soon as the spring sun shone upon it. The other was planning a great gov-

ernment building for the metropolis, a splendid stone structure that will endure for many generations. Which work is your life like? Resolve to build, this year, out of material that will last through eternity.

And, most important of all, because it includes all, resolve to "grow in Christ" this year. Growing up into His stature, you will grow symmetrically, and with design; courageously, and permanently. For He, without whom was not anything made, is the power back of all true and enduring growth. Let us take for our New Year's hymn the strong old words of Lavater:

O Jesus Christ, grow Thou in me,
And all things else recede;
My heart be daily nearer Thee,
From sin be daily freed.

Make this poor self grow less and less;
Be Thou my life and aim:
O make me daily, through Thy grace,
More worthy of Thy name.

1904.

"Time, ——— still on it creeps,
Each little moment at another's heels,
Till hours, days, years, and ages are
made up
Of such small parts as these; and men
look back
Worn and bewildered, wondering how
it is."

Another ring to the tree trunks, another year of our lives.

Here at the beginning of a new year let us turn over an old leaf. Yes, an old one, last year's page will do nicely. Let us look at it a little while, calmly and quietly now, for it is done, all done; written, indelibly written, forever.

Some of the lines are very crooked, aren't they? And, do you know these blots are going to show through on the new page, for,

"Never a day but is ruled and shaped
By the power of a yesterday, escaped."

I wonder if we got a little careless down towards the last, thinking "Oh, well, it makes very little difference now, I'll do much better when I begin the new page." Do you remember at school how the teacher tried to impress upon us that, because of much practice, the last line should always be the best; and how to our sorrow it was almost always the worst? And why? Because it was farthest from the copy.

That, by the way, is one of the differences between copy-book writing and character writing. On 1903's page the copy, the pattern, has been near us every moment.

I find my school children don't like to look at the copy very often,—it takes so much time when they might be writing on so fast! Do you suppose that is where they resemble their elders in the more serious book we are speaking of?

But just look again and notice how often some words occur, and that in every instance they are written well. That word "love," for instance, and "patience" and "forgiveness." Yes, and most of the "smiles" look well too. They are such graceful little words. Observe the ridiculous flourishes to those "I's." How conspicuous they look, and so ugly. Then some letters which should have been small we made large, and some large ones we made small. That word "reverence" now, in character writing should always begin with a capital, but very small ones indeed will do for "indifference" and idleness."

Well may we sigh. This character

writing is a serious business, isn't it,—especially when everyone we meet may read our books a great part of them, at least. And then to think of the Review and the eye of the Great Teacher!

No, do not look so eager, I see the question in your eyes. We cannot re-write our old pages. But here is a new one, clean and beautiful, and the copy? A high standard, a very high standard, the most perfect and therefore the most beautiful. It is this,—our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Do you feel your book wholly unworthy to bear the print of such wonderful words? Do you feel your hand weak, your eye dim, for such magnificent writing? *Keep looking at your Copy.* That glorious sight will give strength, clear vision, courage, yes, enthusiasm, for the task. *Watch your Copy,* and as we start together upon our new pages, you and I—there may not be many more to write,—my best wishes to you for "the best page yet," and—the Master's approval. M. J. H.

Yarmouth, N. S.

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS.

Sometimes people get discouraged about making good resolutions at the beginning of the year, because they have broken so many of them in the past, but never to resolve is never to "rise on the stepping stones of our dead selves to higher things."

In the *Household* there appeared two years' ago the New Year's resolutions of a great many celebrated people, and from these have been selected, and are given in other words, and in condensed form, the thoughts that seemed most helpful:

Hezekiah Butterworth, so well known as a writer for the young people, says that every good resolution that he has made and kept has made him stronger to make and keep others. One that he made early and always tried to keep is to listen and to obey that still small voice in his soul that he has come to know as the voice of the Spirit of God. Helen Kellar, the wonderful girl, who without sight or hearing, and until recently without speech, prepared herself to enter Radcliffe College, says that the keynote of her life has been not to be discouraged or dwarfed by any or all of the fetters that were placed upon her by illness in her babyhood.

That popular writer for girls, Laura E. Richards, has made a little resolution that should give her a warm place in the hearts of all young folks who have felt themselves unjustly snubbed. She says she has resolved never to let a child's letter go unanswered.

Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, a woman who has always attempted large things for humanity, and borne heavy burdens, and who is now above eighty years of age, says that years ago she resolved to cultivate constant cheerfulness, and now in the sunset of her life she does not feel that she is going down hill, but that it is brighter and better farther on.

A college student is resolved to think of what it is his duty to do and not of the consequences, to consider what is possible rather than what he would prefer, to work diligently in the present rather than dream about or fear for the future, to criticise himself rather than others, and to be guided by his own sense of right and not by the consciences of others.

Louis Chandler Moulton is holding to the resolution never to be guilty of unkindness or to write a word that shall do any harm.

Edwin Markham, the author of "The Man With a Hoe," has chosen for the

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guiding north star of his journey of life the determination not to work for his own but the common good.

The governor of one of the eastern states records the resolution to wear a cheerful face, and not to burden other people with his cares or troubles. Faith Latimer has formed a similar resolution, not to wear her personal thorns so that they will prick other people.

A famous pastor resolves to keep every morning first things first; never to let the near and trivial to crowd out the remote and eternal. A famous author expresses a similar thought when he determines to rise above little things.

The author of "Peloubet's Notes," is resolved to be a little farther along tomorrow than today; to make each day a stepping stone in the journey to the heavenly heights.

A wonderfully successful merchant selected the last clause of Heb. 11: 6, to be the keynote of his life. Look it up for yourselves and you will remember it better.

The magazine writer, J. L. Harbor, has gotten a great deal of peace of mind out of the resolution not to contract debts he cannot pay.

A famous and now aged woman has resolved not to mourn over blunders nor fear for the future, as it is wholly in God's hands.

thought that will bear thinking over again by each one of our young people.

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