

Our Young People

This department is in the interest of the Free Baptist Young People's Societies.

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OUR TOPIC TALK.

APRIL 12.—*Christ's teaching about the resurrection.* John 11: 21-27, 40-44.

Christ calls us to a resurrected life, and gives us the power to live this new life while on earth. To us this is a world in which to tarry a while, but we are really citizens of heaven.

We have been raised from a dead past, and we should put off our grave-clothes. The past has been a world of sin and separation from God. From it we come forth still bearing the marks of death. There are evil habits to be broken, desires of the flesh and of the mind to be brought into harmony with the new life. Victory over these things will be a process of gradual conquest. Christ speaks to each soul saying, "Loose him." He who has risen from death to life should shake off the marks of the dead past.

We have been raised to a living present. Every morning brings new opportunities and duties. Only by growth can one prevent lapsing into death, and the new life to which Christ calls us is one of growth—there is a continual process of resurrection. Each day becomes a dead past out of which we may rise to higher things. Are we striving to make each new day the best?

We have been raised to a sure hope for the future. All mere arguments for the soul's immortality are uncertain. Our certainty of future life lies in the fact of the resurrection of Christ. He is the ground of a glorious hope of a blessed immortality for all believers. S. J. C.



Conference for Young People's Leaders.

The second summer conference for leaders of missionary work in Sunday-schools and Young People's Societies will be held at Silver Bay, on Lake George, July 22-31, 1903. These conferences aim to combine exceptional vacation facilities with practical training for more effective missionary work in Young People's Societies and Sunday-schools.

In addition to the Young People's secretaries and other official representatives of Mission Boards who are expected to be present, an invitation is extended to leaders in local Sunday-school and Young People's organizations.

The forenoons of the conference are devoted to devotional Bible study and to consideration of methods of deepening missionary consecration among young people. The afternoons are given entirely to recreation. Vesper services are held in the evening, addressed by prominent speakers on spiritual themes.

Among the speakers who are expected to be present for part or all of the conference are: Mr. Robert E. Speer, Chancellor Wm. F. McDowell, D.D., Messrs. John Willis Beer, S. H. Hadley, Harlan P. Beach, Luther D. Wishard, S. Earl Taylor, Harry Wade Hicks, Rev. R. P. Mackay, D.D., Rev. A. W. Halsey, D.O., President John F. Goucher, D.D., Rev. A. L. Phillipps, D.D., Prof. T. H. P. Sailer, Rev. A. DeW. Mason, Rev. Wm. Bell, D.D.

Reduced railroad and steamer rates and a combination of other favorable conditions make it possible to offer the benefits of this conference to representatives of Sunday-schools and Young People's Societies for but little more than half of what would ordinarily be the expense of such a trip.

Further information concerning the conference may be secured of Mr. Harry S. Myers, Hillsdale, Mich.



What Retrenchment in India Means.

A MESSAGE FROM THE FIELD TO THOSE WHO COULD DO MORE.

II.

Thrust Back Into Heathenism.

"Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so," sang Sikamani (Crown-jewel), the little Brahman girl, as she entered her father's house from Miss R.'s castegirl's school in Singapuram, and her musical voice rang through the kenana apartments. "Here, my lotus blossom, what is that you are singing? Who is Jesus? and what is the Bible?" asked her kindly-faced grandmother "Come and sit down, and tell us all about it."

It was the leisure hour and all the zenana women gathered and, seated on the mats around, listened while little "Crown-jewel" sang more of the beautiful songs Miss R. had taught them in their vernaculars. Then she told them all she had learned about that loving Jesus "who died that we all, yes, we women too, may be saved." Daily in this Brahman's house, in merchants' and artisans' homes, were such scenes witnessed since Miss R. had, one year before, opened the first Hindu girl's school in all that region. The school had filled its building in the Brahman's street, and Miss R. had just engaged to rent another in the Goldsmiths' street, and open another school, and already scores of pupils had made application to be received.

Miss R. had come home joyously from completing the arrangements, making melody in her heart unto the Lord for giving her such opportunities, for she was already getting an entrance into one and another of her pupils' homes, to talk with their mothers and aunts. On her table lay the evening letters. One, from the secretary of the mission, she seized, opened, and read, and sank into a chair, while disappointment and despair, too dry for tears, shook her slender frame. "Killing retrenchments ordered from home. No appropriations for Hindu girls' school.

Must close them all from end of next month." That school cost Rs. \$225 or \$75 per year. The new one would cost the same. But the home church was too poor to afford the \$150, so the order had come as to all those Hindu homes into which the light had been beginning to steal, "Shut out the light, shut in the darkness." (To be continued.)



EASTER THOUGHTS.

A song of sunshine through the rain,
Of spring across the snow,
A balm to heal the hurts of pain,
A peace surpassing woe.
Lift up your heads, ye sorrowing ones,
And be ye glad of heart,
For Calvary day and Easter day,
Earth's saddest day and gladdest day,
Were just one day apart.

No hint or whisper stirred the air
To tell what joy should be;
The disciples grieving there,
Nor help nor hope could see.
Yet all the while, the glad, near sun
Made ready its swift dart,
And Calvary day and Easter day,
The darkest day and brightest day,
Were just one day apart.

—Susan Coolidge.



Easter Suggestions for Our Workers.

Do not let the blessed Resurrection Day pass unnoticed in your society. Make it one of the red letter days of the year. Teach your members that the glad anthems, the fragrant flowers, and the touches of brightness and beauty everywhere, are but expressions of the great joy which fills our hearts because Christ is risen. Easter means endless life; Easter means reunion, sure and eternal. Death is vanished, Christ is risen, and all is well.

If your society meets on Friday make the Good Friday meeting a solemn, impressive service. Earnestly, reverently, sympathetically tell the story of the shameful, agonizing death of the Son of God. Tell it so all will understand as never before what an awful thing sin is; tell it so all will understand as never before the wonderful love of Jesus. Sing softly "Alas, and did my Saviour bleed," with the chorus, "Help me, dear Saviour." Then while their hearts are tender call for a few minutes of silent prayer. Urge all not to let Jesus die in vain, but to confess their sins, and accept Him as their Saviour on the anniversary of His death.

Perhaps the majority of our societies meet on Sunday. Then make special preparation for your Easter service. By all means have flowers, and joyous songs, and the wonderful story of the first Easter morning. A recitation or two will make a pleasant variety.

Help your members to spread the Easter joy by remembering the sick and sorrowing. The week before Easter call the Visiting and Lookout Committee together, and prepare a number of dainty little boxes. These may be made of paste-board, diamond shape, fastened together with pretty baby ribbon. Make them just large enough to contain an egg. Induce some artistic young lady to gild and decorate as many hard-boiled eggs as you require. Sprays of forget-me-nots, and the words "Easter Greetings" make a pretty design. Place a

A WOMAN'S RISK

As a trapeze performer is greater than a man's. She must have a man's courage and a man's muscle to succeed. But she must also work under conditions of which a man knows nothing. Many an accident to women acrobats must be attributed to the sudden weakness to which all women are subject at certain times.

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Weak and sick women are invited to consult Dr. Pierce, by letter, free. All correspondence is held as strictly private and sacredly confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

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