# Our Young People

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#### OUR TOPIC TALK.

Yarmouth Co.

APRIL 19.—The sacred Sabbath.— Matt. 12: 1-13.

The careless observance of the Sabbath is a common evil. Perhaps this is due to a misunderstanding of that for which the day stands.

Why is one day set apart as more sacred than another? The Jews of Christ's time would have answered, because God has said "Remember the Sabbath." They knew no higher reason than the mere necessity of obedience to the divine command.

But Christ went back of that and showed why God gave such a command. It was not because the Almighty wished to exact a fixed amount of obedience from his creatures. Rather was he making a provision for their good. "The Sabbath was made for man." We would do well to remember that the sacred observance of the day is a duty imposed upon us by a loving Father who sees our real needs more clearly than we can ever see them. Disobedience to his explicit command is a serious matter, but perhaps it would be less frequent if we could realize how directly harmful it is to our own best interests.

The blessings which the Sabbath confers are almost without number. Imagine our condition without a Sabbath. By such contrast we may help ourselves to appreciate its present blessings.

How to properly observe the day is a preplexing question for some. Of one thing we may be sure, it should be distinctively a day of rest from the toils which engage our week-day life. Only by having those things put aside can we make the day what it really should be—a season of spiritual, refreshing and soul-communion with God.

S.J.C.

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#### What Retrenchment in India Means.

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

III.

Dr Anna and her Patients.

Dr. Anna B., sent out five years before, had opened out a very fine and desperately needed medical work in Bilanager. Her hospital with twenty beds for in-patients was always filled, while the hundred out-patients daily were blest with her medicines, her skill, and her prayers. The seeds of the kingdom were daily sown in

hundreds of grateful souls. Some seemed germinating. More patients were begging for treatment than she could possibly receive on her appropriations. She had sent a strong appeal for an increase in funds, and an assistant or associate, as the work was more than she could do. "Impossible. Funds not coming in. Can not keep up even present appropriations. Retrench fifteen per cent. from January first. Imperative."

Sick at heart she went over every expenditure to see where she could possibly cut down. Medicines and necessaries for treatment must be had. A small reduction was possible in a few minor points, but on "diets of in-patients" must nearly the whole reduction fall. There was no help for it. Hereafter out ten of the twenty beds could be filled, for the people coming from distant villages were too poor to provide food for themselves away from home. Ten beds were packed away, as they vacated. The remaining ten were all filled with important cases, and Dr. Anna prayed for a hard heart, to enable her to refuse others.

"Will the dear lady doctor please come and see a dying woman in Kallur, four miles north." A young mother, fourteen years old, whom native midwives had horribly maltreated, from want of skill and knowledge, was what she found. Her life still might be saved by the utmost skill and care, if she could be placed in a hospital, not otherwise. "Bring her in on her bed. I will try." Half way back and Dr. Anna was stopped at a hamlet to see a young girl, terribly gored by a bull. "Bring her in too." As she neared the hospital a woman wrapped in a blanket tied as a hammock to a long bamboo, and "borne of four," was laid on the veranda of the hospital, with foot dropping off from gangrene, the result of the bite of a poisonous, but not deadly serpent. The love of Jesus pulsed in Dr. Anna's heart. She could not say no. "Take her in," and so of two others equally needy who came. But how were they to be

Dr. Anna had already devoted all she could spare from her small salary to purchase additional medicines for the growing throngs of out-patients. Now, to feed these, her suffering sisters, while they were being healed she gave up the more expensive articles in her own diet, meat, eggs, fruit, etc., and struggled on, giving her every energy to her increasing number of patients, and working harder, if possible, even on her unnourishing diet. Months thus sped by. One morning she fainted at her work, and fell upon the masonry floor of her hospital. An adjacent missionary was hastily called. An English doctor of experience and skill came from the large town near. "Nervous prostration and threatening paralysis, from overstrain and lack of nourishment. Must be put on the first steamer and sent home as the only hope," was his unhesitating verdict.

Her board had saved one hundred dollars by the cut, and paid two hundred dollars to take home poor wrecked Dr. Anna B. The sick were deserted, and the hospital closed. The murmur went around the home land, "What a mysterious Providence that strong and vigorous Dr. Anna B. should be stricken down after only six years of service, and just when she was most needed."

#### FREDERICTON SOCIETY.

Our society has but recently resumed its regular meetings, the pastor, Rev. J. C. Hartley, having been holding special meetings for the past two or three months. The last of March closed our half-yearly work and the regular consecration and business meeting was held March 31st.

The executive still continues to meet before each business meeting and discuss matters relating to the society's work, which is presented at the monthly meeting of the society. The officers were re-elected for the ensuing six months. Our membership having been revised we now have 56 active and 7 associate members. The consecration meeting should be the best meeting of the month, as it is the crown and climax of the services, and each one should be more impressive and helpful than the one before if the society is progressing.

It has a two-fold purpose. First, to review the progress made during the month and second, to review our vows for the coming month.

Our leader always has the pledge read in unison, thereby refreshing our minds with the vows we have taken.

It has been our habit nearly always to have the members respond to the roll-call with a testimony or a verse of Scripture, interspersed with singing. This makes a pleasant change from the ordinary meeting. It is a good plan to take time in calling the roll and give the members a good opportunity to speak, suggest a hymn, or perhaps to offer prayer.

Perhaps we may hear how other societies conduct their consecration service. An interchange of thoughts and ideas are often very helpful.

SECRETARY.

#### April 1 1903.

### DEFINITE CONSECRATION.

The object of the consecration meeting is not to "re-consecrate" yourself. You are consecrated once for all to the Master. It is to renew and emphasize this consecration, and remind yourself of it in every way. Besides, it is to make definite consecration to special things. At one consecration meeting, for instance, consecrate yourself to speaking a word of praise every day of the coming month o some discouraged worker. At another time, consecrate yourself to trying to bring some particular soul to Christ: These special consecrations need not be made orally; but make them before God, and then give your message in the thought of them. -Selected.

### TRUE CONSECRATION.

Our Prayer Meeting Committee has been trying a new plan for the consecration meeting. The meeting had become so deadly formal that they felt that calling it a "consecration meeting" was an injury to the society. It was announced that the first ten minutes of the next meeting would be along the line of the "Quiet Hour." The ushers had instructions to seat no one during the service, and, so far as possible, to prevent late comers from coming in while the service was in progress. Promptly at the moment for opening, the leader asked that all come to the front, the pianist played "I

### THE PRISONER

Who escapes from jail is by no means free. He is under the ban of the law and punishment is written over against

his name. Soon or late he will be caught again and bear added punishment for his short escape from his cell.

Those who by the

Those who by the use of palliative powders and tablets escape for a time from the sufferings of dyspepsia are in the same condition as the escaped prisoner. Soon or late they will go back to the old condition and pay an added penalty for temporary release.

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