

Our Young People

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

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THE C. E. TOPIC—Oct. 9.

HELPING ONE ANOTHER.

Romans 15: 1-7.

(An Honorary Member's Meeting.)

After Jacob Riis had published his powerful picture of New York slums, entitled, "How the Other Half Lives," a stranger called at his office one day, and, finding him out, left a card: "I have read your book and have come to help.—Theodore Roosevelt." And Mr. Riis adds, in telling the story, "No one ever helped as he did."

The greater the man, the greater he is to help, and to take pains about his helpfulness. A beautiful story tells how a famous singer, passing along a street in Lyons, was accosted by a beggar. He had nothing to give her, so he hid his face with his hat pushed down over his forehead, and sung a wonderful song that drew a large crowd, from whom he collected a goodly sum of money for the poor woman. He thought he was unknown, but when next he appeared on the stage the wildly applauding throng would not let him proceed until he had sung the song he had sung for the beggar.

It is pleasant and easy to help those that are in a little need of help, our friends, good people, grateful people; but Christ wants us to help especially those that are lowest down in the mire. Rev. Charles Garrett persuaded a drunken cabman to sign the pledge, but he was soon drinking again. So Mr. Garrett went to him and asked: "John, when your horse slips down in the mud, what do you do?" "Why, sir, I help him up again." "Well, John, the road was slippery, I know, and you have fallen; but here's my hand to help you up again." The cabman took Mr. Garrett's hand, profoundly moved, and promised never to fall again.

It is as we try to help the people who most need help that we get closest to Christ, for there is where he is always at work. You have heard, have you not? the story of the preacher who climbed his church steeple so as to get close to God, and every Sunday dropped two written sermons on the heads below. When the preacher grew old, Christ called to him, "Come down and die." Greatly surprised, he called out from the steeple, "Where art thou, Lord?" And Christ answered, "Down here among my people."

One thought that should constantly spur us to help others is the knowledge

that it will soon be too late. Other chances to help may come, but not this chance, or a chance at this person. Heed Mrs. Sangster's earnest words:

Ah, woe for the word that is never said
Till the ear is deaf to hear,
And woe for the lack of the fainting head

Of the ringing shout of cheer;
Ah, woe for the laggard feet that tread
In the mournful wake of the bier.

And while we help others, we may be storing up help for ourselves. We can never be sure that we shall not ourselves need aid. "However rich a man is," said Joseph Parker, "he cannot do without some other man." Let us live for God and his world, for the sake of God and his world, and not to please ourselves; and then all the world and God himself will minister gladly to our every need.

CHRISTIAN SOCIABILITY.

(A paper by Miss Edna Alexander, read at the League meeting by Miss Mamie Smiley.)

Sociability must be the outcome of sympathy. A world without sympathy would be a cruel abiding place.

Almost the earliest instincts of the little child is to run to mother for comfort over an injured finger, or a bruised head. Later, the boy or girl at school finds the lessons made much easier by a word of encouragement from the sympathetic teacher.

Why is it that children come to mother with every little trial, and always feel confident of receiving help? Because they are fully aware of the fact that mother loves them.

Love, then, is the secret of sympathy. "We do not lack love so much as the power to make others feel it. How much kindness is never put into words. How much sympathy is like buried treasure, making no heart richer for its being. Put your love into words, into acts, into kindly glances. Remember its mission is unfulfilled until it has passed from your heart to warm and comfort and cheer another."

Christianity is the feeling that all men are brothers and belong to one family. It is thus the very essence of sociability. For what true-hearted person does not delight in helping a brother, however erring he may be.

I wonder how many of us realize the loneliness of being a stranger! I think the most desolate feeling imaginable is that experienced by a young person who leaves home and loving friends and goes into a strange community to sojourn for a season.

Through the week he has his work to think of, and soon becomes acquainted with his business associates. Then comes the day which should be the brightest and happiest of all the week, and with a dull aching at his heart he enters a strange church. It is God's house, and many of the congregation are earnest Christians; but throughout the entire service the boy thinks of the old church at home, the well-known minister in the pulpit, and the rows of familiar faces. He seems to see the family pew, with father and mother, brothers and sisters seated therein, and his own place vacant. When the time arrives for the benediction he is suffering the most acute throes of that dread disease called homesickness. At this moment his heart is warmed by a hand-clasp and word of kindly greeting from the pastor, and several young people, their faces bright with friendly zeal, come forward and earnestly welcome "the stranger that is within their gates."

He goes out, feeling that the world is a pleasant place after all, and contains many friendly people. There is every reason to believe that his attendance at church is assured. He is no longer a stranger, but has been treated as a brother in his Father's house.

There are many reasons why our social committees should be ever on the alert. Many young people have the idea that church work is only for the aged, and that no pleasure may be derived from it. If these may be led to experience for themselves the blessedness of loving Jesus and living for him, a noble mission will have been performed, for which one day the "well done, good and faithful servant" may be heard from the Master's lips.

There are many places of amusement which, to the gay and thoughtless, are far more attractive than those furnished by the church, yet the spirit of which is not conducive to Christian living.

Our aim, then, should be to win souls from the pleasures which are but for a moment to those which are real, and that never fade away.

Religion never was designed to make our pleasures less, but rather to wonderfully increase them. Jesus says: "I am come that ye might have life, and that ye might have it more abundantly."

There are some people who seem specially adapted to attract and entertain, and they do so without apparent effort. But to many of us comes the perplexing question, How can I be sociable? I am not a fluent talker, I am too diffident to make advances with strangers. In answer, I would say, in all humility, "we must forget self entirely in our desire to do our Lord's work." If we are willing and anxious to obey, he will direct our actions and our words.

What a blessed thought that we may be co-workers with Christ, and that he has so arranged that his work cannot be carried on without our assistance.

Let us then endeavor, with God's help, to lead useful lives, full of sympathy and love to those around us.

Remembering always that "the secret of loveliness is the love of Christ," the secret of winsomeness is the desire to win for the Master.

SECRETARY'S NOTES.

The papers read at the last session of the League were of a helpful character. We shall publish them. The first appears in this issue on "Christian Sociability." It contains many good suggestions, which ought to help not only our societies, but the entire church.

Any item of interest in connection with your society, please send to the corresponding secretary as soon as possible, while it is yet fresh news. Do not keep it until it is stale.

As the winter months are approaching, each society should be preparing for an aggressive season of work. What about your associate members? Can you not lead many of those to Christ? And are there not others you can induce to take the associate pledge, and thus take the first step toward the church? Our motto is: "For Christ and the Church;" and Christ died to save sinners.

Remember that we have financial obligations. Begin to plan how you can assist in meeting the League's obligations; Do not leave your society's pledge until the last moment. Look after it early.

EYE GLASSES

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WAYSIDE JOTTINGS.

The young woman had been working in an effort to meet a trying situation. She was perplexed and scarcely knew which way to turn. In her anxiety a friend of former years called at the office. Formal greetings were exchanged, and after a few moments the caller said:

"Miss Brown, will you do something for me?"

"Why, certainly, if I can," was the reply.

"Smile."

The worried look immediately left the face, and the humor of the situation was at once apparent, and it was also contagious. During the remainder of the day, when the duties were exacting and close application brought back the wrinkles, the request of that friend came again to her mind—"Smile!"

I am not sure but this would be a capital motto to put over our desks. It would make the work easier, and certainly it would make people near by happier.

A young woman of my acquaintance went to room with an elderly couple, who at once nicknamed her "Sunshine." During all the time of her stay there, if doubts came up, or angry thoughts came into her mind, her beautiful nickname served to banish the clouds and sunshine came back again. It was the contagion of cheerfulness which brightened the day for all around.

Over the desk of another friend of mine hangs this motto: "Don't Worry, but Work." And here is another cheerful worker, who always goes at her task with a bright face. Work is hard, but how much harder is it under a threatening cloud—and the clouds are not all in the heavens, either. Indeed, the most depressing ones are sometimes in our own faces. "Smile!"—The Baptist Union.

Why do Women Suffer.

Such pain and endure the torture of nervous headache when a quarter buys a bottle of Nerviline which never fails to relieve? Just a few drops of Nerviline in sweetened water cures nervous or sick headache, relieves heart palpitation, and makes you feel better immediately. Nerviline can't be beaten for quickly curing stomach and bowel troubles, and should be kept in every home. It's good to rub on for external pain and excellent for inward use. Sold in large bottles.