

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.

MAY 8.—CROWNS, TRODDEN UNDER FOOT.
—Isa. 28: 1-7; Rev. 3: 11.

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

Crowns stand for kingdoms. When Isaiah chanted of Ephraim's crown of pride trodden under foot, when John handed to the church at Philadelphia the message that they were to hold fast their crown, it was the crown of character that was at stake in each case, what Christ meant by the kingdom of heaven.

The kingdom of heaven is a realm of many principalities, and for each there is one jewel in the kingdom's crown. Health is one of these principalities; intellect is another; beauty, wealth, peace, worthy accomplishments, are others; still others are home, patriotism, the love of friends. There are as many principalities as there are aspects of a model life, of Christ's life, and for each of them the king of the kingdom of heaven should wear a jewel in his crown. And you should be the king, for "the kingdom of heaven is"—or should be—"within you."

Men are eager for material crowns. They are not "trodden under foot." No man wrests them from us, except with arduous fighting. Sennacherib's sons slew their father for his crown, and even then did not get it. For the crown of wealth or of power many a man has done strenuous battle all his life. For the crown of beauty or flattery many a woman has sacrificed her soul.

But there is only one "crown of life," only one crown, that is, which lives. The rest crumble to ashes even as they are lifted upon the head. A Vanderbilt will confess that great wealth brings only great wretchedness. Wrinkles come into the face of beauty. Pride is sure to have a fall at last.

But the crown of the kingdom of character, of heaven, grows brighter and more glorious with each year it is worn. It imparts a beauty that defies wrinkles or gray hair, a power that not all the cabals of men can shake, a wealth that endures and even increases through the worst panic that can affect the markets. How strange that such a crown should be chosen, above all others, to be trodden under foot!

Now this is intended for a temperance meeting, and the topic was chosen because intemperance more than all other evils tramples crowns under foot! It crushes under its ruinous tread the

material crowns. No drinking lawyer can long keep his acuteness. No drinking artist can long preserve his delicacy of touch. No beautiful face can long bend to the wine glass and retain its loveliness. Intellect, genius, beauty, power—alcohol is a solvent for all these crowns, and washes them away into the river of death.

Any intemperance will do this—intemperance in toil, greed of money, the horrible intemperance of lust, the devouring passion of jealousy; but none more quickly and certainly than the sin of drunkenness.

As to the crown of the kingdom of heaven, the crown of character, this is the first to crumble into alcohol's river of death. It is like gold, that when left alone, will outlast the ages, but it melts away at the touch of mercury; or like the diamond, hardest of substances, yet to be shattered by a slight rap along the line of cleavage.

Ah, kings and queens, guard well your priceless crowns!

THE YEAR BOOK.

The Conference Year Book is now being circulated among the churches. Included in this book, by the courtesy of the General Conference, will be found the minutes of the Young People's League held last year at Marysville. It is to be hoped every member of every Young People's Society will read these minutes. There will be found there a very complete report of the League's financial affairs prepared by Treasurer Lindsay. Look this over carefully. You will there find where the money came from and where it went to; also where the treasurer has invested the funds on hand.

There was considerable of a surplus last year, but this year the expenditure will be very heavy. Let us all try and swell the "received" account as much as possible. F. C. H.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

This year the energies of the League are largely expended in Home Mission work. Bro. Paul is doing good and faithful service and in this all the young people will rejoice. It must not be forgotten, however, that by vote of the League last year, the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars is to be expended in Foreign work. This money will be expended in the support of three native teachers and workers in India. These laborers in the far away land are toiling on day after day seeking by education of the young and spreading of the gospel message to help bring about the glad good day when all men shall know and serve the Lord. We are glad to have some small part in carrying out the Master's commission. Let us do our part faithfully and well. It can be all summed up in a single sentence: Pray, pay, and work away. F. C. H.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

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A Marvellous flesh producer! This is the statement of those who have used "The D & L" Emulsion. It is said to be rich and sweet as cream and not unpleasant.

"The Young People and the Church."

The *Examiner* of New York city, one of the ablest and most influential Baptist papers in the country, has been investigating the condition of the young people's societies in that denomination.

In view of the criticisms heard in some quarters, the results of the investigation are profoundly significant and very encouraging to those who believe in the permanency of the young people's movement. With very few exceptions the replies were enthusiastically favorable.

We quote from the editorial on the subject, and give samples of the replies from pastors of representative churches. It is an interesting fact that with possibly one exception all these are Christian Endeavor societies.

"For ourselves, we frankly confess that we have had misgivings as to some aspects of the so-called Young People's Movement of recent years; but with equal candor we say that we have had none whatever with regard to the underlying purpose of the movement.

"We believe in young people; we rejoice in the freshness and vigor and hopefulness of their aims and purposes; we thank God that they are not content to be bound down to the repressive routine of conventional church life, but yearn to break new channels for themselves and to broaden the scope of their religious activities.

"Nothing is so fraught with peril to the future of the churches as spiritual stagnation. Better far some crudeness, some incongruities, some indiscretions even, that indicate genuine life, than the lifeless calm of a stagnant pool. Luther's Reformation was a protest against the dead formalism of an effete ecclesiasticism; Wesley's Methodist revival was an uprising of spirituality against the dry-rot of Anglican indifference; and may it not be that the young people's movement of today shall prove to be the salvation of our churches from a religious condition that was fast approaching, if it had not reached, the form of godliness without its power?

"We are speaking, of course, in a broad sense, making due allowance for exceptions to the too general rule. The wide prevalence of spiritual declension in recent years has been long recognized and deeply deplored. May it not be, is it not certain, that the stirring life of the young people's movement was providentially ordered to save our churches from utter spiritual decadence?

"If it has not always been wisely guided, if friction has occasionally been felt, if antagonisms—usually needless—have been stirred up, they are but incidental to every forward movement. When your foot or your hand 'goes to sleep,' the return of the arrested blood into the veins produces anything but an agreeable sensation; but it is good for hand or foot that the blood does return.

"We must not fear the young people's movement because it causes friction now and then. Let us find out why it causes friction. Possibly it may be discovered that the trouble is not with the young people—or that they are stirring up trouble, as Wyclif and Huss and Roger Williams did, by moving forward on providential lines.

"That may be the case, and it is for the churches to seek to discover where the real difficulty lies, lest they be found fighting against God. We are not prejudging the case, but suggesting the proper method of dealing with it. Let

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us deal fairly with these dear young people, and endeavor to help rather than hinder them."—C. E. World.

Censure and criticism never hurt anybody. If false, they cannot hurt you unless you are wanting in manly character, and if true they show a man his weak points and forewarn him against failure and trouble.—Unknown.

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Remember that a carpet should always be swept the way of the nap. To brush the other way is to brush the dust in. Attend to all stains as soon as possible. If left, they gradually sink into the carpet, and are much more difficult to remove than if done at once.

Great Things From Little Causes Grow.—It takes very little to derange the stomach. The cause may be a slight cold, something eaten or drunk, anxiety, worry, or some other simple cause. But if precautions be not taken, this simple cause may have most serious consequences. Many a chronically debilitated constitution today owes its destruction to simple causes not dealt with in time. Keep the digestive apparatus in healthy condition and all will be well. Farnelee's Vegetable Pills are better than any other for the purpose.