

## Our Young People

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### THE C. E. TOPIC.

BY AMOS K. WELLS.

MAY 15.—WHAT JOSEPH AND BENJAMIN TEACH ABOUT BROTHERLY CARE.—Gen. 43: 28-31, 45: 14-22.

(Union meeting with Juniors.)

No one knows God as his Father unless he knows God's children as his brothers.

It works both ways. The more we truly realize God's fatherhood and rejoice in it, the more we shall realize and rejoice in our human brotherhood; and the more men we know and love and help as our brothers, the more we shall know and love our Heavenly Father.

It is easy to talk about the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men, but the words are only a hypocritical phrase unless they accompany deeds of brotherhood. The tramp was right, in the well-known dialogue:

"Is God your father?" he asked of the lady.

"Yes."

"And mine, too?"

"Yes."

"Then I am your brother!"

"Y-e-s."

"Then give your brother a slice of bread and butter, and spread the butter on thick."

"Ian Maclaren," in a noble sermon on "The Gospel of Altruism," says: "I plead with you to take an interest in the affairs of other people, because they are your own affairs." Does a drunkard lie in the gutter? It is the honor of your own family that is at stake. Is a girl falling into the snare of a wicked man? It is your own sister who is going wrong. Is a young man launching out on the difficult sea of life? Bear a hand, there, for the boat is carrying on a prosperous or a disastrous cruise. The man that "tends to his own affairs" is the man that "counts for nothing human foreign to him."

Of course, we must not neglect our own interests. If Joseph had not saved corn in Egypt for himself and Pharaoh, he would have had none with which to save Benjamin and Jacob. But our primary object in caring for our own interests should not be the saving of ourselves, but of our brothers. As Mrs. Charles urged:

Go make thy garden fair as thou canst,  
Thou workest never alone;  
Perchance he whose plot is next to thine  
Will see it, and mend his own.

The greatest and most blessed of the Christian paradoxes is this, that what we keep we lose, what we give we have. There is no more important secret of success in life than this maxim of brotherhood. A man rises, not as he is pulled by patronizing hands reached from above, but as he is pushed upward by the eager, loving thrust of his brothers, around him and below him.

The surest way out of any trouble is to help some brother in trouble. Are you tempted? Go, labor with other sinners. Has death taken your dear ones? As you wipe away the tears of others your own will cease to flow. That same Mrs. Charles has expressed the truth in one of the finest of Christian lyrics:

Is thy cruse of comfort wasting?  
Rise and share it with another,  
And through all the years of famine  
It shall serve thee and thy brother.

Is thy burden hard and heavy?  
Do thy steps drag wearily?  
Help to bear thy brother's burden;  
God will bear both it and thee.

Those that are their brothers' keepers  
are kept by their Father in Heaven.

### BEAR ISLAND SOCIETY.

Our society, though somewhat small, is still in active service for the Lord. The active members are few, and we sometimes become discouraged in our efforts to carry on the work. But we are still trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength, and though our number be few we still hope that we may be able to accomplish something for the Master. We hold our meetings Sabbath evenings, and generally have a very good attendance; but we need more workers. We feel the need of a minister with us very much. Mr. Paul has promised to be with us some time soon.

On the evening of Easter Sunday we gave an entertainment. The programme, which was well carried out, was as follows: Opening hymn, "Hosannah to your King;" a chapter was read from the Bible, followed by prayer, by Mr. Charles Hagerman; hymn, "Easter time is here," by the children; exercise, "Easter," by six girls; recitation, "An Angel Touched the Stone," by Dora Parent; solo, "Lo, the Stone is Rolled Away," Miss Gertrude Brown; recitation, "Easter Time," Miss Allie Ingraham; duet, "Lessons of Springtime," Mrs. Clifton Lint and Miss Amanda Hagerman; exercise, "Gems for the Easter Crown," by fourteen children; recitation by three little girls; duet, "The Weary Night is Ended," Misses Nellie Gunter and Allie Ingraham; recitation, "The Cross," Miss Gertrude Brown; closing hymn, "After the Gloom," by full choir. Miss Nellie Gunter presided at the organ. A silver collection was taken, which will add to our C. E. funds.

Two active members have been added to our list during the winter.

GERTRUDE BROWN,  
Cor. Sec.

"Give us, O give us," cried Carlyle, "the man who sings at his work! Be his occupation what it may, he is equal to any of those who follow the same pursuit in silent sullenness. He will do more in the same time—he will do it better—he will persevere longer. Wondrous is the strength of cheerfulness; altogether past calculation is its power of endurance!"

### HOW ONE GIRL HELPED THE ENEMY.

Revival services were in progress. The pastor labored for two weeks to arouse the church to activity. Impetuous prayer had been offered for the salvation of the unrepentant. The interest was steadily rising. "Outsiders" were beginning to come to the services. showers of grace were beginning to fall. The devil was becoming alarmed.

Just then the pastor and the officials and church members, and even the more thoughtful "sinners," were surprised at the announcement that Miss —, one of the leading members of the League, was to give a party; that numerous invitations had been sent out; and that all the young people of the congregation were going to attend.

Many of them did attend. It was an evening of frivolity and feasting, well calculated to dispel religious thought and feeling. There were many empty seats at the church that night. The pastor's face was pale, and his eyes betrayed the fact that he had been weeping. The "faithful ones" looked into each other's faces, and mutely expressed their sorrow. Everyone was depressed. The meeting was fruitless. But the devil was more than satisfied. It required a week to recover from the shock which this thoughtless girl had given the revival.

The League member did not intend to do wrong. She would not intentionally injure the work of God. The very suggestion that she would help the enemy would start from her lips a burning protest. Nevertheless, she did prove the devil's best helper. He used her to strike a staggering blow at the cause she professed to love.

Let no active or associate member of the Epworth League be thus betrayed during the current revival campaign. Clear the track for the one work of soul-winning.—Exchange.

### THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS.

Dr. Van Dyke, in his sermon before the General Assembly at Los Angeles, said that, "If we come to Christ for happiness," he tells us four great secrets in regard to it:

It is inward and not outward; and so it does not depend on what we have, but on what we are.

It is not to be found by direct seeking, but by setting our faces towards the things from which it flows; and so we must climb the mount if we would see the vision; we must tune the instrument if we would hear the music.

It is not solitary, but social; and so we can never have it without sharing it.

It is the result of God's will for us, and not of our wills for ourselves; and so we can find it only by giving ourselves up in submission and obedience to the control of God.

### WHITER THAN SNOW.

"Once, when I was paying parochial calls, and dropped in on a washerwoman, who had just got out a line of clothes, I congratulated my friend because they looked so white. So much encouraged by her pastor's kind words, she asked him to have a cup of tea, and we sat down.

"While we were taking the tea the sky clouded, and there was a snow storm; and as I came out the snow lay everywhere, and I said to her: 'Your washing does not look quite so clean as it did.'

"Ah," she said 'the washing is right enough; but what can stand against God Almighty's white?'

"So you may think that you are clean, because you have never seen God.

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When you see God, your holiest day will seem to be imperfect; you will abhor yourself, and repent in dust and ashes, and you will need to say: "Forgive me my debts as I forgive my debtors."—F. B. Meyer.

### THAT SILENCE SAVED ME.

There is a very suggestive incident related illustrating how at times silence may be a greater power for good than any other agency.

A young man sat chatting with some giddy girls. Among them was a sweet, quiet young woman known as a Christian. The younger man, thinking to tease her, bantered her about her religion. The silly girls tittered, but the object of his mirth remained silent. Then with the folly of youth, and recklessness of impiety, he muttered many infidel objections to Christianity. She did not smile nor look at him, nor seem to notice him. Then he continued his harangue, hoping to force her to refute something. But she maintained the same sweet, dignified silence. A vision of his own stupidity broke over the young man and convicted him of sin. He said afterwards, telling the story, "That silence saved me."—Exchange.

### Cold in the Back.

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You can find scores of answered prayers if you have been a praying man or woman.