

## 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.—Jan. 22.

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

#### HOW TO WIN SOULS FOR CHRIST.

John 1: 40-46.

(Led by the Lookout Committee.)

Andrew teaches Christians the first lesson in soul-winning: Go for your own brother. That is, try to bring to Christ those whom you love, those nearest to you. It makes no difference whether the nearness is of blood or sympathy. You will succeed where you love.

Christianity is to win the world by this process alone—neighbor influencing neighbor, friend influencing friend. It is like leaven. One part of yeast will permeate two thousand parts of dough, but only by changing the parts next to it, and so working its way through the mass. Dr. Schauffer estimates that if only ten million Christians would earnestly try each to save a soul, and each convert be thus zealous, the entire world might be won to Christ in seven years. Dr. Hale's beautiful story, "Ten Times One is Ten," shows how it is done.

In that single hour when he brought Peter to Christ, Andrew accomplished more for the world than in all his life besides. It may easily be so with us. Business men are satisfied to get ten, five, or even two per cent returns from the capital, but no investment equals in returns the investment of a little time and courage in soul-saving. The interest is literally millions per cent. Indeed, if you remember the endless reaches of eternity, the interest is infinite. Was not Stephen's death well worth while if it helped on the conversion of Saul? Think of the souls Moody won and of the eternal joy in heaven, and estimate, if you can, the reward of that faithful Sunday-school teacher who set Moody's feet on the way of life! It was a very obscure man that converted Spurgeon; for that one deed it was worth any man's while to have lived.

It was Jesus himself who found Philip. Our Lord is still going forth, calling men to himself. He goes along with every soul-winning disciple. Thus, however lonely, we may also go forth, as did the seventy, two and two.

We shall meet sneers. Even Philip met a sneer, that ancient sneer, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" We may count on the sneers of men, but we may also count on the praise of

Christ if we do our duty in spite of the sneers. Our lives will show which we care most about, Christ's praise or men's.

The soul-winner's speech is simple and easy. It is only Philip's "Come and see." The most important thing for a soul-winner to be able to say is just this, "I have found him." It needs no powerful philosopher or logician, merely the quiet statement, "I have made trial of Jesus Christ. He has done everything for me. Now, won't you try him, too? Just come and see."

If all the three and a half million Christian Endeavorers will this winter—in humble earnestness—follow these few simple rules for soul-winning, we shall make 1905 the greatest year this earth has ever known!

### SECRETARY'S NOTES.

From Bro. Malcolm Dennison, President of the Marysville Society, we have received the following interesting facts concerning Marysville Society:

The work is moving along in a manner that is pleasing and satisfactory to all. The attendance at our weekly meetings is good, and they are very spiritual. There seems to be an increasing desire on the part of our active members to be more zealous in the work of the Lord. We are realizing the need of putting forth more effort outside of our church meetings, and living consistent lives before the world. Many of our active members are away from home, but we keep in touch with them by correspondence, and find it helpful to us, and them as well. We propose holding house socials during the winter. We have already on hand over half of our pledge for this year. Each member pays ten cents a month, and by that means, we hope to raise the entire amount by next League time. We are also contributing toward our new church building fund.

The above items are taken from a letter to the secretary from Bro. Dennison. I would certainly be glad to hear from any of the society officers, or any of the members. If you do not feel like writing for this department, and yet would like to help to make the page devoted to our League work interesting, write me, giving any items of interest concerning your work, and I will be very glad to use them.

You will note Marysville Society has already raised half of its pledge for this year. If your society at work on its pledge? Do not make the mistake of leaving it until the last quarter. Be after it now.

The following clipping on the consecration meeting has been sent to me by an interested worker. The suggestions are good:

*Several Leaders.*—Do not always have merely one leader for your consecration meetings. A number of leaders may be utilized, in accordance with the following plan: Let the leader, one week before the meeting, inform the chairman of the different committees that each chairman is to be held responsible for his committee during the consecration service. The chairman should be seated, grouped on either side of the leader, in front of the society, and after the leader has conducted the opening exercises, let him announce a hymn appropriate for some special committee. The chairman of that committee then has charge of the meeting and of the participation of his members, which he

leads in any way he thinks proper. This plan is followed for each committee. The committees will take special pride each in their own part of the meeting, and will strive, if the plan is well understood beforehand, to make that part a helpful success. The secretary will make his usual record, of course.

### THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE.

A few years ago a young Japanese came to the study of Dr. Leighton Parks, of Boston, and desired an interview. The conversation which followed was something like this:

"Sir, can you tell me about the beautiful life?"

Dr. Parks answered: "Do you wish to talk to me about religion?"

"No, sir, I merely wish to inquire about the beautiful life."

"Have you ever read the Bible?"

"Yes, I have read it some, but I do not like your Bible."

"Have you ever attended church services?"

"Yes, I have been to church two or three times, but I do not like the church. I am trying to find the beautiful life. I notice that many of your American people lie and cheat and do mean things like the Japanese, and yet you are all Christians. No, I do not think it is your religion, but there is something that I want. I do not know what it is, but I call it the beautiful life."

"Where did you hear about it?" asked Dr. Parks.

"I never heard about it at all, but saw it first in San Francisco. I spent three weeks in a boarding-house with an old man who had it. He was not an educated man like myself. I have studied at our Japanese universities, and I am now studying at one of your greatest American universities. But this man I speak of was uneducated and very humble. He was a poor man, but there was something inexpressibly beautiful about his life. He was always helping others; he never seemed to think of himself at all, but he was always going about doing good to others. I had always thought that there might be something of the kind in the world, but I had never seen it. Since then I have seen a few others who had it in some of your American homes. I do not think it is your religion, for all do not seem to have it."

Dr. Parks opened his Bible to 1 Cor. 13, and read to him Paul's wonderful description of the love that faileth not.

"Is that what you are looking for?" he inquired.

"Yes, I think perhaps it is. At all events, it sounds like it. But, sir, can you tell me how to get it? I must have it at any cost."

Then Dr. Parks told him the story of Jesus and gave him a New Testament, and sent him away, telling him that he must study it and pray that light might be given him to live this beautiful life. The Japanese went away grateful for the help he had received, and for the Book which told about the beautiful life.

Dr. Parks heard nothing from him for a year or two, but finally received a letter from the Japanese saying that he had been called back to his country to fill an important position, but he had something to tell him, and he wished to see him.

When he arrived he was in a great hurry, and, drawing out his watch, he said: "My train starts for San Fran-

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cisco at two o'clock, where I take the steamer for Japan, but I want to tell you that I have found the beautiful life, I have found Jesus Christ."

His face was beaming with delight, and away he went to tell the people of his own country about the most wonderful thing that he had seen in America, and better still about him "whose name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

The experience of the young Japanese raises the question whether our lives are such as to awaken the envy of a heathen, and to make him so hungry for it that he goes about asking everyone to tell him how to obtain it. It is to be feared that many of us awaken no such envy, and not even a passing interest. If this be true, then the question arises whether we are not misrepresenting Christ.

The Japanese thought it was not the Christian religion which he was seeking, because most of the Christians he saw did not seem to possess the beautiful life, and yet every life which is hid

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