

Our Young People

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THE. C. E. TOPIC—March 6.

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

HOW CHRIST STILL THE STORMS OF LIFE.

Psalm 107: 23-31.

There is a use in storms. They purify the atmosphere, driving out all the miasmas. They toughen the fibres of the trees. They wash clean the surface of the earth. After them the skies shine the brighter, and the world takes a new start.

And so as Spurgeon once said, "the air from the sea of affliction is extremely beneficial to invalid Christians. Continued prosperity, like a warm atmosphere, has a tendency to unbind the sinews and soften the bones; but the cold winds of trouble makes us sturdy, hardy, and well-braced in every part."

"God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb." He does not try us above what we are able to bear.

Only one at a time they come, the trials we so much dread;

Only one at a time they break, those clouds above our head.

With each trial he sends the strength to bear it, if we will take it. As the day our strength shall be. In every trial he makes a way of escape.

Sometimes he gives us wings to soar above the storms. Hannah Whitall Smith tells of three friends. If they came to a spiritual mountain one of them would wearisomely tunnel through it; the other would carelessly and at haphazard make her way around it; while the third would just flap her wings and fly right over. In the manner of the last we may surmount the storm-clouds of life.

Always we may be comforted in the storms by remembering that beyond them is the peace of heaven. A small boy in a railroad car was asked whether he was not tired of the long ride, the dust and heat. "Yes, ma'am," he answered, "a little; but I don't mind it much, because father will meet me at the end of it." So we shall not "mind much" the troubles that darken our sky, for Father will meet us at the end. "There is a sea of glass," as Spurgeon said, "after the sea of storms." There is a peace heaven after a troubled earth.

But, when all is said, there is something better than rising above our trials, or anticipating heaven at the end of them, and that is finding Christ in them, and being helped by him to bear our burdens.

An English evangelist was at work

upon an especially difficult undertaking, and was greatly worried by it, when one day he asked his little daughter, a paralytic, where her mother was, that he might give her a package. "She is upstairs," was the answer; "let me carry it to her." "Why," said he, "you can't even carry yourself; how could you carry it to her?" "Oh, papa," she answered, "I will carry the package, and you will carry me."

That is just what Christ is ready and eager to do for us—just take us up, heavy burdens and all, and carry us, with whatever is on our back, through all the stormy paths of life.

When thus we find Christ in the storm, there is no storm any longer.

The storm-clouds part, they yield a place To sunbursts of relief,

And Love wears her divinest face

When first she stoops to Grief.

KNOXFORD SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Young People's Society at Knoxford was held on the 25th of September, 1903. The following officers were appointed: President, T. A. Jones; Vice-President, George Knox; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Truman Jones; Corresponding Secretary, Stella M. Jamieson; Treasurer, Truman Jones; Organist, Mrs. James Toms. For committees we have devotional, lookout, missionary, temperance and social.

During the winter months the meetings have been held as regularly as possible, have been quite well attended, and the interest has been good.

Our Society has found the C. E. Topics in the INTELLIGENCER very helpful, and we appreciate the effort put forth to supply us with these instructive notes.

We are looking forward to larger meetings and better efforts to make them more interesting and helpful as finer weather approaches.

Our Society number now about 35 active members. We wish you all every success.

S. M. J.

SOME GOOD PLANS.

FOR PRAYER-MEETING COMMITTEES.

A Closing Prayer.—In our society, after the closing hymn at the prayer-meetings, we join in repeating the following prayer: "Grant, Lord, that the words we have said and sung with our lips may we believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts we may perform in our lives. For Christ's sake, amen." The words are type-written and pasted inside the front cover of the hymn-books; but now all know them, and repeat them reverently, following them with the Mizpah benediction. I trust that all prayer-meeting committees man introduce this concert prayer into their societies. It is helpful.

FOR LOOKOUT COMMITTEES.

Review the Pledge.—If the members of a society are becoming careless and indifferent, it may be that they are forgetting the contents and meaning of the pledge. A good plan is to have the pastor or some older member occupy the last five minutes of each meeting with a talk upon one clause of the pledge, such as "Trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength," and "I promise him." If this is done earnestly, it cannot fail to re-awaken the interest of the members.

FOR PRESIDENTS.

Something Definite.—The president cannot better set his societies to work than by giving each member of the executive committee—that is, each chair-

man, three written suggestions pertaining to their respective lines of work. When work is in this way mapped out for a chairman, he is far more likely to accomplish it. Of course the suggestions should afterwards be talked over with the various chairmen.

A SIX-HUNDRED-DOLLAR MISSIONARY GIVER.

For the past five years the Christian Endeavor Society of the Madison Avenue Reformed Church, New York City, has supported its own missionary, Miss Julia C. Scudder, of Palmaner, India, and has annually raised the sum of six hundred dollars for her support, besides giving quite liberally to home missions, etc. During the past year a number of our most faithful workers have moved away, so the missionary committee felt it would be almost impossible to raise the \$600. However, we hoped and prayed, but had very little faith. By New Year's day we had but \$115 on hand, as against almost twice that amount a year ago (our year closes March 15). Our chairman was despondent, and there was more than one "Aunt Doleful" (and Uncle Doleful) in the society.

Last Sabbath we held our annual missionary meeting. We were surprised, happy, and ashamed of our little faith in God, when after the meeting our treasurer announced that the amount, all told, was over \$600, and all the pledges were not yet in.

Although the meeting had been closed, those who lingered to hear the result joined in singing the doxology, and there was more than one dim eye.—C. E. World.

Dealing With Those Who Complain of Christians.

In dealing with those who complain of the hypocrites in the church it is well to open your Bible to Matthew 7: 1, and ask them to read it. "Judge not that ye be not judged." Also show them Romans 14: 12. "So then everyone of us shall give account of himself to God." Then ask the objector, "Who has appointed you judge over your fellow men? Has the Lord appointed you?"

"No."

"Have your fellow men selected you to this important position?"

"Of course not."

"You don't mean to say that you have appointed yourself judge, do you? A self-appointed judge! Who ever heard of such a thing!"

Then ask him to read Romans 2: 1. "Wherefore thou art without excuse, O man, whosoever thou art that judges, for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou that judgest dost practise the same things."

Ask him if it ever occurred to him that he was a hypocrite himself, and when he answers in the negative, say to him:

"Well, let us see. You condemn the hypocrites because they pretend to be what they are not?"

"I do."

"But when you claim that the reason why you are not a Christian is because of the hypocrites in the church, you are pretending what is not true. The real reason why you do not become a Christian is because you want your own way, and are not willing to obey God. And when you say it is because of the hypocrites, you are saying what is not true, and you know it."

Show him John 21: 21, 22. "Peter said unto him, Lord, if I will that he tarry till I come, what is

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that to thee? Follow thou me." Say to him:

"Admitting that there are hypocrites in the church, what is that to you? If every man in the church was a hypocrite, that would not excuse you from the duty of repentance."

"If there was a call for volunteers to defend this country, would you stay out of the army because some bad men would probably enlist?"

"I suppose not."

"Possibly you are a Mason or an Odd Fellow. Are there any black sheep in your lodge?"

"I must confess that there are a few."

"And yet you joined the lodge, knowing this fact, and you urge others to do the same?"

"That is true."

"Why then do you offer such a silly excuse when the subject of religion arises? If you do not wish to be a Christian, say so in a manly way, but do not try to hide yourself behind the faults of others. The only safe hiding place for a sinner is the cross of Christ, and you will realize it some day."

A man once said to his pastor that the reason why he did not accept Christ was because he once had a partner who was a professing Christian, who wronged him in business.

"That is your real reason, is it?" asked the minister.

"It is," replied the man.

"Suppose we put it down in writing," said the minister, and drawing out his note-book, he wrote: "The reason why I am not a Christian is that my partner, who claimed to be a Christian, wronged me in a business deal."

Tearing out the leaf, he folded it and