

Our Young People

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THE C. E. TOPIC—Feb. 14.

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

WHAT WILL REAL FRIENDSHIP DO?

1 Saml. 20: 1-23.

It is necessary to say "real" friendship, since so much that is called by that precious name is not friendship at all. As Sir Walter Raleigh sarcastically wrote:

Some friends as shadows are,
And Fortune as the sun;
They never proffer any help
Till fortune hath begun.

Thomas Hughes defined friendship as "the power of going out of one's self and seeing and appreciating whatever is noble and loving in another man." Therefore a selfish man cannot know real friendship; he will not live in any life but his own.

This does not mean that a real friend will carry out all his friend's desires. The more we love another, the more difficult it is to deny him anything, and the more certain we are to deny it if it is not best for him. Goeth puts the truth thus:

True friendship shows its worth in stern refusal
At the right moment; and strong love sometimes
Heaps the loved one with ruin, when it serves
The will more than the weal of who demands.

On the same principle, blame is sometimes a greater evidence of friendship than praise would be, as a man who files a saw does more for it than the man who paints the handle. Yet many friendships fail for lack of praise; and that is one reason why God sends us friends, that we may have many chances to cheer them on with encouraging plaudits.

Another thing a friend does for a friend is to complement him. Agassiz, the zoologist, was a warm friend of Braun, the botanist. Each learned his friend's lore, while he built up his own specialty. Friends should in this way be eager to share with one another the best and brightest they read, see, or think. That is an exchange that doubles each life.

One of the best things a friend does for a friend is to sympathize with his thoughts, listen with interest to his opinions, and exult in his plans and achievements. This "heart and head hospitality," as Joubert calls it, is a vast comfort and inspiration on the lonely road of life. Lucy Larcom neatly defines this function of friendship:

The best friend is an atmosphere
Warm with all inspirations dear.

The best friend is horizon, too,
Lifting unseen things into view.

A friend will often make us or mar us in the view of the world. The Jewish legend says that when the starling first appeared in Jerusalem the rabbis could not tell whether it should be classed as a clean bird or unclean, for no other bird associated with it. At last there came a raven from Egypt which claimed acquaintance with it; and since the raven was an unclean bird, the starling also was reckoned unclean. Such is the influence of friendship on reputation.

But, after all a friend can do, one relation is infinitely higher. General "Chinese" Gordon advised us to "leave men's love for God, taking Him only. You will find that as you do so, men will like you; they will lean on you and trust you, and He will give you the spirit of comforting them."

So that the dearest word that Christ says to His disciples, the proudest and most ennobling word, the word that means the most for our earthly relationships as well as the heavenly, is this: "I have called you friends."



THE OFFERING SERVICE.

BY REV. FRANCIS E. CLARK.

"Well begun
Is half done."

This is an ancient couplet that is full of sense. Especially in a religious meeting may be made or marred in the first five minutes. It may be "opened" in such a way as to shut it up tight, or it may be opened in such a way as to make every one feel the gracious influences of the hour and put each one *en rapport* with the occasion and its real spirit of worship and helpfulness.

Especially is it true that the young people who lead our Christian Endeavor meetings need help oftentimes in getting a good start. It is their first meeting perhaps. They are bashful and timid; they feel unequal to the situation. Not but that they may for this very reason lead the meeting much better than a self-assured and more experienced leader, but they will be greatly helped by having some little introductory service in which their companions may join, and which will break the crust of ice if there is any at what is called "the cold end of the meeting."

Moreover, there is a sense of brotherhood and fellowship in having a common service with many others; with ten thousands of Christian Endeavor societies adopting substantially the same service for the first three or five minutes of the meeting, this would be another tie to bind our hearts in Christian love. So I have ventured, acting upon the suggestion and advice of one of the best friends of Christian Endeavor, to propose four introductory services, one for each prayer meeting of the month. They can be repeated each month without growing wearisome or losing their interest, I believe, and I feel that such services will be a real boon to many a young leader. If there is a demand for them, they will be printed on a leaflet, which can be inserted in the front of the hymn-books and thus always be ready for use.

I should like to hear from my Christian Endeavor friends in regard to this matter, whether such a plan commends itself to them, and as to any changes they would propose in these simple services. Even if I am in Australia, your opinions will reach me. It will be noticed that these services provide for the participation of many at the very

beginning, in the sentence prayers and in the seasons of silent prayer, as well as in the seasons of united prayer.

Here, then, are the services, as I would suggest them, each service having for a central thought some great idea for which Christian Endeavor stands: The first week "CONSECRATION," the second, "FELLOWSHIP," the third and fifth (where there is a fifth week), "EVANGELISM," and the fourth, "MISSIONS." These key-notes will keep them in line with the regular meetings of the month.

Introductory Service.

First Week.—Consecration.

LEADER.—Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated for us, . . . let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith. Heb. 10: 19-22.

People.—And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. Heb. 10: 24.

LEADER.—Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord? 1 Chron. 29: 5.

People.—Then the people rejoiced, for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the Lord. 1 Chron. 29: 9.

LEADER.—Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost? 1 Cor. 6: 19.

People.—Now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. Phil. 1: 20, 21.

ALL.—For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. Rom. 14: 8.

Silent Prayer of Consecration, followed by sentence prayers, then followed by all joining in repeating reverently in unison,

"Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee,"
etc., (three verses).

All standing and singing the same.

Introductory Service.

Second Week.—Fellowship.

LEADER.—Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Ps. 133: 1.

People.—There the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore. Ps. 133: 3.

LEADER.—For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us. Eph. 2: 14.

People.—So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Rom. 12: 5.

LEADER.—Let love be without dissimulation. Rom. 12: 9.

People.—Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another. Rom. 12: 10.

Sentence Prayers that brotherly love may prevail and for the spiritual unity of all believers. Then all joining in the Lord's last prayer for Christian union, "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word; that they all may be one, as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me."

Singing,
"Blest be the tie that binds
Our hearts in Christian love."

Introductory Service.

Third and Fifth Weeks.—Evangelism.

A Call to Prayer.
LEADER.—O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good.

People.—For His mercy endureth forever. Ps. 118: 1.

LEADER.—Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the Lord. Ps. 134: 2.

People.—The Lord that made heaven and earth bless thee out of Zion. Ps. 134: 3.

LEADER.—Send thee help from the sanctuary, and strengthen thee out of Zion. Ps. 20: 2.

People.—We will rejoice in thy salva-

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tion, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners: the Lord fulfil all thy petitions. Ps. 20: 5.

ALL.—Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon, Isa. 55: 6, 7.

A moment of silent prayer, followed by three or four short prayers for a spiritual awakening in church, society, and community, followed by the Lord's Prayer in unison.

Singing: "I love Thy kingdom, Lord.

Introductory Service.

Fourth Week.—Missionary.

LEADER.—Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. Mark 16: 15.

People.—All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Isa. 52: 10.

LEADER.—The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof: the world, and they that dwell therein. Ps. 24: 1.

People.—Ask of Me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Ps. 2: 8.

LEADER.—Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift them up, ye everlasting doors.

People.—And the King of glory shall come in.

LEADER.—Who is this King of glory? People.—The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory. Ps. 24: 9, 10.

A season of sentence prayers for the conversion of the world, closing with this blessing repeated in unison:

"Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who only doeth wondrous things. And blessed be His glorious name forever; and let the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen." Ps. 72: 18, 19.

All sing: The morning light is breaking.—C. E. World.