Our Young People

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THE C. E. TOPIC.—Feb. 13.

CHRIST A SERVANT—AND WE ARE SERVANTS.

Phil. 2: 3-11.

BY AMOS R. WELLS.

I have read an account of the gorgeous ceremonial when the queen regent of Spain, in the presence of her splendid court and with the co-operation of her proudest lords, washed the feet of thirteen beggars, humbly wiped the feet and kissed them, and then assiduously waited upon the beggars as they sat at a magnificent banquet. Thus she was glad to become a servant, an imitation of our Saviour.

But—though Christ would have us, when necessary, wash literal feet, the spirit of humility is what he wishes to see in us, and that may be shown in all our common acts.

One of Murillo's paintings in the Louvre, pictures of a kitchen filled with beautiful white-winged angels, who are putting the kettle on to boil, carrying a pail of water, and doing the rest of the lowly work. It is a lovely symbol of the truth that

The highest duties oft are found
Lying on the lowest ground,
In hidden and unnoticed ways,
In household works, on common days.

And if it is true that every common task is great if performed in a great spirit, what are we to say of the work that directly concerns Christ's church? How glad and proud we should be to do even the least service for Christ! To teach little children in the Sunday-school, or help in the junior society!

Morrison, that noble pioneer missionary to China, wrote home for an assistant, and a young man applied, but the committee thought him unfit, but he might go as a servant, if he would. "Yes, certainly," the young man said promptly. "To be 'a hewer of wood and a drawer of water' is too great an honor for me, when the Lord's house is building."

Indeed, in all matters, whatever, this willingness to serve is the secret of success. That is why humility has been well called the foundation virtue. We can make no progress in any direction unless we are teachable, and a proud man cannot be taught.

When General Gordon was in Palestine, he received a telegram asking him to accept a very important post. Soon afterward a friend found him outside the city wall, kneeling in prayer, and remonstrated with him for going into such a dangerous place, exposed to the Arabs. Said Gordon: "The telegram from England filled me with such elation that I felt I might get into trouble by being proud, so I came away by myself to humble myself before God."

Christ did not receive honor from men, and Christ's followers dare not. The only question we should ask about our work is, "Is it Christ's work also?" and the only reward we should seek is his "Well done, good servant." Whoever goes out into life seeking work in that spirit never fails to find it, never fails to do it magnificently when it is found, and never fails to receive at the last a reward far more glorious than all the crowns of earth.

WOODSTOCK SOCIETY.

The new officers for the coming six months were installed January 6th. They are:

President, T. A. Lindsay; Vice-president, V. R. Hayward; Secretary, Arthur Slipp; Assistant Secretary, Miss M. Slipp; Corresponding Secretary, Miss L. M. Vince; Organist, Mrs. C. B. Watson; Assistant Organist, Miss M. Steeves; Treasurer, Fred. Hillman; Prayer-meeting Committee: Rev. F. A. Currier, chairman; Lookout Committee, Miss L. N. Vince; Social Committee, Miss M. Watson; Sick and Relief Committee, Mrs. E. Price.

Our C. E. prayer-meeting is held on Friday night of each week. The attendance is good, and the interest is keeping up well. We have a number of visitors, and try to make them feel at home.

Some of our members have been called by duty to other places, and new ones come in to take their places; but those who have gone out have not forgotten the society,—at consecration service they send verses to be read, thus telling us that their hearts are still in League with us. Some who have been gone three years never fail to send their verses to be read at this service.

Before each service we have a five-minute prayer-meeting, invoking God's richest blessing upon our service. The prayer-meeting and lookout committees have combined, and meet at some home each Thursday night to study and pray about the lesson, and to plan ways and means of having better C. E. prayer-meetings.

We have voted to make the week before Easter Self-denial Week. By means of this, and also the mite boxes (each member giving two cents a week) we are endeavoring to raise our pledge.

In December we entertained the Pembroke C. E. Society and the Baptist young people. We had a short social service, a programme and refreshments.

We have now entered on another new year, and by God's help we hope to make it the best year our society has seen. God is ever willing to help us, and if we, his children, make more earnest efforts to do our part, good results will surely follow.

COR. SEC.

Just to be good, to keep life pure from degrading elements, to make it constantly helpful in little ways to those who are touched by it, to keep one's spirit always sweet and avoid all manner of petty anger and irritability—that is an idea as noble as it is difficult. —*Edward Howard Griggs.*

HINTS ON TAKING PART IN PRAYER-MEETING.

BY REV. KINLEY M'MILLAN.

Do you find it hard to take part in the prayer-meeting? Almost every one has had the same experience. Will you profit by a few hints, so that you may take part profitably? Do you think you ought to take part? Well, if it is your Christian duty, then your allegiance to your Lord demands that you do your duty or else "die trying to do it."

SOME LITTLE THINGS THAT ARE NOT LITTLE.

Observe and do.

1 Sit in the front.

2 Take part at the very first opportunity.

3 Sit with those that do take part.

4 Ask them to encourage you to take part.

5 Remember to make taking part a matter of earnest prayer.

6 Determine that you will take part.

Sometimes the very best thing you can do to help a meeting is to fail while trying to take part. Will you ask God for grace to fail for him, if that is best?

WHAT CAN I DO?

Sometimes people ask this question. Here are five things that you can do. Is the last too hard? Then try the easiest first. Do not stay in the "verse-reading class" long. Remember to be "always abounding in the work of the Lord."

1 *You can read a verse of scripture.* But be sure it is on the topic.

2 *You can read an appropriate selection of the verse of a hymn.* Be sure *you can read it intelligently.*

3 *You can preface or follow the reading of a verse* by some brief remark, as "I have found this verse helpful." A very good way is to say, "This verse means"—then tell in your own words what it means.

If you can make some remarks to bring out the meaning, do it.

4 *You can illustrate the meaning of a verse or the topic.*

(a) By some Bible incident that you can read, or, better, tell.

(b) By some story you have read in history, or in some book or paper.

(c) By some incident that has come under your personal observation.

(d) Best of all, by some personal experience.

5 *You can pray.*

There is nothing that helps a meeting more than prayer. We have few prayers in our meetings. It is hard to pray. Will you pray?

Be sure to prepart your prayer by
Praying,
Thinking,
Writing,

How shall you begin? How do the Bible prayers begin?

How shall you end? How do the Bible prayers end?

What shall you put in the middle? Study the Bible prayers. Some Bible prayers suggested for study. (Remark how little like these prayers are the ones you hear). Matt. 6: 9-13; Eph. 1: 9-17; 4: 14-21; Phil. 1: 9-11; Col. 1: 9; Heb. 13: 20, 21. Absorb these petitions. It costs to pray. Will you pay the cost?

HOW TO SPEAK

so that you can say your part to edification.

Remember you are speaking for others to hear; therefore

1 Stand up to take your part.

2 Hold up your head and speak out.

3 Speak loud enough for all to hear, especially when you pray.

4 Speak distinctly.

5 Speak slowly. All beginners speak too fast. Try to go slowly.

6 Take a good breath just before you begin to speak.

SOME GENERAL HINTS.

1 If you cannot speak your part, write it, and read it.

2 Begin to prepare a week beforehand. Read over the topic the previous Sunday evening. Think on it during the week.

3 If some one else reads your verse, or "says just what you were going to say," say it again. It needs emphasis.

4 Do not pray longer than the Bible prayers. Do not speak long.

It is not an easy thing to take part to edification to yourself and others. It requires prayer and pains. Do you care enough for the prayer-meeting and your Lord to do your part well? Then "study to show thyself approved." And

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