

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4-12

AN ESTIMATE OF READING VALUE

We cannot over-estimate the value of good reading: "A book introduces us into the world's best society." We may not be able to become acquainted with the great men of our day, but we can become acquainted with the best that great men have thought by reading the books they have written. A man always puts his best into the books he writes. We may not be able to hear very many great preachers, but we can read their best sermons. We may be deprived of many educational privileges, but as Thomas Carlyle said, "The best university is a collection of good books." Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "Give me a book, good health, and a day in June, and I will make the pomp of kings absurd and ridiculous." However, it is not enough to read, but one must read that which is worth while. Why read a book that will do us no good? As Lord Bacon said, "Some books are to be read, some tasted, some swallowed, some digested." Speaking of the same thing, Dr. Talmadge exclaimed, "If there were a famine there might be some reason for eating garbage, but the land is full of bread." His advice is, "Keep out of the mud." Another has said, "In this day readers need as never before to carry a sieve." There are so many good books to be had that there is no need to even hesitate over something that is questionable—throw it away, and get something that you know is good. It is well to stick pretty close to what we might call "solid reading"—not so much light reading as to waste our time, and not so much heavy reading as to make us sleepy. And another thing: don't read too much—just for the sake of saying you have read so many books; read for what you get out of it.

If you have read a good book, pass it on. A book can do no good while it stands on the shelf beneath a layer of dust. Few people ever read a book more than once, so what is the use of keeping it for the children to tear up? Give it to someone who will enjoy it. Or, better still, get down a bunch of those books which you never expect to read again, and donate them to our District No. 1 Library. You can be a blessing if you will, and you know a blessing withheld is like the mumps—it causes no one any discomfort but the one who has it. Ladies, get the books out for your husbands to wrap up when they come home from work this evening. Do it now, and then they can mail the parcel on their way to work in the morning. Address it to the writer at Centreville, N. B., or to Miss Lois Goodspeed, Fredericton, N. B.

Do it now.
Things delayed are seldom finished,
Soon the "want to" has diminished;

Do it now.
If you think to wait a minute,
Though waiting has no sinning in it,
Procrastination's sure to win it—

Do it now.

H. J. S. BLANEY

"THAT THE GENERATION TO COME MIGHT KNOW."

Psalm 78:1-7

By Rev. F. A. Dunlop

In this Psalm is recorded God's method of perpetuating His message of salvation from

generation to generation, viz: "He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel which He commanded our fathers that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments."

It has pleased God to make each succeeding generation depositories and depositors of his law and gospel. It is like a great chain, each generation forming a new link, a chain that has reached down across the centuries of the past bringing to us the message of God. As we face this fact we find ourselves facing a great responsibility—great whether we look back over the past or ahead into the future.

Gifts of love and sacrifice always produce a sense of indebtedness on the part of the recipient. This day we find ourselves children of a most glorious heritage. It has come to us as a gift of our fathers. But at what a price! It is quite impossible to estimate the cost. A man in a king's palace is accosted by God. His prospects of kingship and high honors rise before his eyes, while a life of hardships plus a lonely grave in the land of Moab is the alternative. But regardless of the sacrifice the challenge is obeyed, and God has found a man through whom He may speak to man.

A nation is formed, a nation whose very existence consists in sacrifice and blood. Standing apart by herself, hated by all others, Israel makes her way down across the pathway of divine service. Temples of infinite cost were reared, only to be destroyed by the hand of the spoiler. Vineyards were planted to become food for their enemies, and scarcely a generation but knew its years of bondage and slavery. While we criticise this nation for her sins of disobedience and find her often under the rod of God's displeasure, nevertheless we are obliged to lift out hands toward Heaven and thank God for a people who protected His law from the pillages of war, and honoring it even in heathen lands, kept it so that not one jot or tittle was lost. Think of the Jews as we will, yet we are everlastingly indebted to that people who produced the heroes of faith, the names of which can be found in the art galleries of the eleventh chapter of Hebrews.

The chain lengthens and we find ourselves in a new day, a day of clearer and fuller revelation. The Deliverer of whom Moses and the prophets did write has come, and coming He brought with Him a message of grace that was to be heralded to the ends of the earth.

"God who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son." He spake, and his was a message of grace and truth, and yet it was met with no less hostility than was the law of Moses. Christ himself was hounded by blood-thirsty men from the hour of his birth to the hour of his death. His first bed was a manger, his last a cross. To any and all who would become his disciples, he offered a cup of sorrow, a baptism of suffering, and a rugged path to martyrdom. But wonder of wonders, for nineteen hundred years, through fire and blood; in the prison on the rack; in perils in

the sea, in perils among false brethren; God has never been without a witness. And on this, the anniversary of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, the whole world rises to declare by her Churches, her Bibles and her far-flung mission lines, how faithful to the call of God have been the generations of the past. But now while we bare our heads in honor to the heroes of the Christian Church, we are met by the significant words of Paul when he, like us, stood sandwiched between the past and the future: "They without us should not be made perfect." They have thrust the burning torch into our hands, not to be extinguished by the stifling bands of formalism or the chilling winds of modernism, but to burn on in all the splendor of this Church age, "That the generation to come might set their hope in God."

Right here we turn to face our responsibilities to the rising generation. Doubtless many grow faint as they, like Nehemiah, go out to view the wall, or turn to face their God-given task. As we consider this matter in the light of present conditions, we are faced with tremendous obstacles. If we look at the nations of the world, we find a sorry state of affairs. The spirit of Christ is being outlawed, and war clouds are hanging over the whole world. Russia closes her doors against the Bible, and enters upon a program by which she hopes to destroy all faith in a personal God. Germany has introduced a new religion of her own. France is noted as the infidel nation, and England and America are fast going modernistic.

We turn to the Church and find her wallowing in the swamps of uncertainty or lost in the jungle of its changing hypotheses. The old landmarks pointing their index finger to Calvary have been torn down, and nothing of certainty for an enquiring judgment-bound world has been erected in their place. Many of the outstanding Church leaders in this present generation speak no longer with a "thus saith the Lord." They quote Ingersol, Darwin, and Spencer more than they do Moses, Isaiah or Christ.

We face a rising generation that knows little of the sanctity of the home, the discipline of parental authority, or the sacredness of things divine. Multitudes of them are being nursed at the breasts of anti-christs, educated in the schools of modernism, and caught in the ever increasing tides of immorality. It would seem that Hell from beneath has moved herself to produce a combination of things calculated to engulf and to destroy the rising generation. I heard a man say just recently, "Our aim now should be to rescue our children because we have entirely lost one generation." The awful thing about his statement is that it may be true. I trust, however, that we may be able to save many of them yet.

(To be concluded next issue)

AMHERST SOCIETY REPORT

In giving the report of the Young People's Society of Amherst, we feel like saying that we found the Rally on November 11th a big boost. This came on the Monday following our Quarterly Meeting. We had some fine readings and talks, and appreciate some helpful points that were brought out. The special speaker of the evening was Rev. H. S. Dow,