

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

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

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YOUTHFUL RESPONSIBILITY

Wyonetta Sargeson

"It is a good thing for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth." Lam. 3, 28.

These are the words of Jeremiah, who was well qualified to speak to young people. It is said that he was about fourteen years of age when called to be a prophet of the Lord. This young man naturally hesitated to accept such a responsible position and said, "Behold I cannot speak, for I am a child," but the Lord answered with encouraging words, "Say not 'I am a child' for thou shalt go to all I send thee and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak."

When Jeremiah said "It is good for a man to bear the yoke in his youth" he was no doubt thinking of service; for the word yoke is used in the Scripture as a symbol of service as well as of union. Jesus said "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me." It is also used as a symbol of bondage; the apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians, "Be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage", and also "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." It is used here as a symbol of responsibility. The writer meant that it is good for a young person to accept responsibility. Those who learn to work and accept responsibility in secular matters while they are young make the most useful citizens. But we are thinking especially of the service which we may perform in connection with our religious life.

The enemy of our souls would get his yoke upon young people and lead them on in bondage until they became so fettered by sin and evil habits, that he would make them think it impossible to break away. But Jesus can break every fetter and set the captive free. He wants young people to be "workers together with Him." The fact that those whom He chose to be His disciples, were busily employed at the time He called them, is significant. They had learned to work and He would have them work for Him.

He has said, "Go today and work in my vineyard." So let us lay aside our own feelings and our personal ambitions and ideals and give ourselves wholeheartedly into the work of the Lord and we will find that His yoke is easy and His burden is lighter.

"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart and ye shall find rest to your souls."

SOW ON IN FAITH!

Eow the good seed! Another after thee
Shall reap. Hast thou not garnered many
fruits

Of others' sowing, whom thou knowest not?
Sanst tell how many struggles, sufferings,
tears,

All unrecorded, unremembered all,
Have gone to build up what thou hast of good?

HARRIET W. LIST

Godliness with contentment is great gain.
—I. Tim. 6.6.

Accuracy is of much importance, and an invariable mark of good training in a man. Accuracy in observation, accuracy in speech, accuracy in the transaction of affairs.

"THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT OVER-
COMETH THE WORLD, EVEN OUR
FAITH"

(I. John 54)

It is easy to love Him when the blue is in the sky,

When summer winds are blowing, and we smell the roses nigh;

There is little effort needed to obey His precious will,

When it leads through flower-decked valleys or over sun-kissed hill.

It is when the rain is falling, or the mist hangs in the air,

When the road is dark and rugged, and the wind no longer fair,

When the rosy dawn has settled in a shadowland of gray,

That we find it hard to trust Him, and are slower to obey.

It is easy to trust Him when the singing birds have come,

And their canticles are echoed in our heart and in our home;

But 'tis when we miss the music, and the days are dull and drear,

That we need a faith triumphant over every doubt and fear.

And our blessed Lord will give it; what we lack He will supply;

Let us ask in faith believing—on His promises rely;

He will ever be our Leader, whether smooth or rough the way,

And will prove Himself sufficient for the needs of every day.

GEO. MacDONALD

TO BE USEFUL

Do the duty which lies next to you.
Live in the sunlight, and help others out of the shadows.

Have a great deal of hope in the heart, and wear a radiant face.

Reach out a hand of helpfulness to the stumbling ones, and speak a word of cheer to the discouraged.

Find out where the lame ones are, and help them over the rough places. Their gratitude will repay you, and the Master will say, "In as much as ye have done it unto one of these, ye have done it unto Me."

The habit of viewing things cheerfully, and thinking about life hopefully, may be made to grow up in us like any other habit.—Samuel Smiles.

The best thing to take people out of their own worries is to go to work and find out how other folks' worries are getting on.—A. D. T. Whitney.

The question for each man to settle is not what he would do if he had means, time, influence and educational advantages, but what he does with what he has.—Hamilton Wright Mabie.

BOOKS TO READ

Six months ago we began publication of a series of articles or items under the above caption, and in each issue since the first of the present year we have presented and recommended for your reading, some particular book. Our purpose has not been to publish a complete list of what we believe to be books worthy of our attention, but rather to create among our young people a greater interest in the very beneficial practice of reading, and to emphasize the importance of carefully choosing our reading material. We believe every young person should read much—the Word first and then the best books, and that such a privilege might be enjoyed by all our young people, that every society of our organization should have a library. Those who have been following these items will observe that we have endeavoured to suggest a variety of books, doctrinal, devotional, poetical, historical and practical, as variety will give broad scope to our thinking, and general enrichment to the mind.

Believing that the purpose for which this series of items was introduced has been accomplished, we are discontinuing the same, at least for the time. We sincerely pray that the suggestions have been helpful to our readers, and assure you that we would be pleased in making further suggestions of helpfulness in this regard, if those desiring such would communicate with us.

HABITS

Just as impressions make thoughts, and thoughts make actions, and actions form certain tendencies, so these tendencies by and by become hard-and-fast HABITS. It is easy to get a hard knot in your shoe-string, but troublesome to unknot it. So we become knots of habit. We button a certain button first, put on the right shoe, or the left, first,—habit!

We hear it said of one who has gone wrong: "He is a slave to a bad habit." Of another we might say, "He is a master of good habits." In the making of manhood and womanhood, habit is very important, for while habits are being formed, we can shape them as we will.

Habits have been called "paths across the brain." When the lawn of a corner home is newly seeded, and beautifully green, someone, hurrying to catch a car, cuts across the corner of the lot and leaves his footprints. Another, seeing this, does the same; soon a path is worn in the tender sod. That is like habit.

Wrong paths across the brain may be stopped in a young person's life. Mothers, teachers, others try to head off bad habits: "Don't throw your cap on the floor." "Eat with your fork." "Tell things exactly as they are." Warnings should be heeded. First, we make our habits. By and by our habits make us. "Sow an act; reap a habit." If you sow a bad habit, you will reap thistles.

When one notices or is warned of a bad habit, that is the time to stop it, and not wait until it is deeply rooted. Breaking a habit early is as easy as breaking two or three strands of thread wound around the arms. But when the whole spool is wound around, it would be almost as hard to break as a ship's cable with the strength of your arms.—J. F. C. in Religious Telescope.