

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

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

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EDITORIAL

HEAD TIDES AND CONTRARY WINDS

The spiritual tide of community and national life seems at various periods to ebb and flow. The interest and attention of people toward spiritual things undergo radical changes. Sometimes the Holy Spirit so successfully gains a place of prominence in the minds and hearts of men, that He is able to constrain them to regard the matter of their soul's salvation as being supremely important. At such times revivals break out, churches are filled, and places of vice and worldly amusement quite forsaken. Again, at other times, humanity drifts away from God. Borne on a strong flood of worldliness and ungodliness, people in great numbers are swept into a whirl of pleasure, sinfulness and self-seeking.

Naturally, when the revival spirit prevails, and the minds of people in general are turned to God and holy things, it is easier for all to keep in the good and right way. But when the tide turns worldward and the wind is contrary, when the great majority of the inhabitants of a community and nation turn to the pleasures and pursuits that gratify the flesh, when God is not in all their thoughts, and their minds dwell continually on evil, then there is a strong and subtle undertow which seeks to draw away and engulf all those who would live godly in Christ Jesus.

Without attempting to discuss the cause of these changes, we believe it is generally accepted that they come. Moreover, we are certain that the Spirit-guided and candid observer will admit that at present we are in a period of spiritual decline. The current is running swift and strong toward the world. The wind is "fair" for all those who seek vain pleasure and follow lustful desire. Consequently those who endeavour to keep in the course which, according to the Word leads to the heavenly harbour, must travel under adverse conditions. Head tides and contrary winds endeavour to pull and drive us in the opposite direction. A pleasure-mad world, a self-seeking generation, a people who worship and serve the creature more than the Creator, exert their influence over us and seek to turn us aside from the way of righteousness.

Young people, if we are to keep our course and be true against these adversities we must have courage. We must be motivated by a brave spirit which is born out of a deep appreciation for the value of the riches of grace, and a strong affection for the Captain of our salvation. Like Moses, we must "choose to suffer affliction with the people of God" rather than to "enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season "because we have respect unto the recompense of the reward." If we courageously persevere, God will give adequate grace. Let us settle in our hearts that regardless of the choices and decisions of others, we will serve the Lord. If we do, we shall surely reach the heavenly haven.

One ship sails east, and one sails west,
By the self-same wind that blows—
'Tis the set of the sail, and not the gale
That determines the way it goes.

Like the waves of the sea are the ways of fate,

As we voyage along through life.

It's the will of the soul that decides the goal,
And not the calm nor the strife.

Hartland M. S.,
South Africa

Dear Young People:

Greetings from Africa. In our meeting today, on this Station, I was impressed by the contrast of the testimonies of some of the Native women present, and that of our worker, Martha Nkosi. The first were not those of a Christian who, through Christ, was enjoying the "more than conqueror" experience spoken at the end of the eighth chapter of Romans. Instead they told of the "Wretched man that I am" sort of experience. One woman called herself a "wanderer," one who travels with many haltings. Another called herself "The one that whosoever findeth killeth." Martha, on the other hand, testified of the life of victory and joy. How changed Martha has become since she has returned to the Lord and received the Holy Ghost. The once haughty and quick tempered woman has become so humble, sweet spirited and joyful in the service of the Lord.

There are many fine young people in our midst out here who are not enjoying even a justified experience. Some are backsliders, some have never known the "joy of the Lord." Their lives are being yielded, more or less to Satan, and the years are passing on: when will these turn "from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to God?" In behalf of these young people I request the earnest, Holy Ghost directed prayers of our Young People in the Homeland. We have some very fine Christian young people who are walking in the way of life. Let us pray for these too that they may continue to advance to possess new land spiritually.

The project of this section, of which Hartland is about the center, becoming a Native Reserve, is again being talked of. For some time it seemed that this might come to nought. This is an important subject for prayer in connection with this Missionary work.

I am glad to be out here in the work of the Lord, not by merely human planning or wisdom, but by the will of God.

To each young soldier of the Cross I extend my best wishes for a Happy New Year. May this be the best so far in all ways.

Yours in Him,
CHARLES SANDERS

WORK FOR AND WITH YOUTH

How many conversions at the revival to-night?" they asked the pastor.

"Two and a half," was the reply.

"Two men and a boy, I suppose?"

"No, two boys and a man. You see, the man can give Christ only half a life; he is nearly fifty."—Canadian Baptist.

Gratitude is the music of the heart, when its chords are swept by the breezes of kindness.

Nobleness of character is nothing but steady love of good, and steady scorn of evil.—Froude.

GLEANINGS

"Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."—Galatians 5:1.

"A man's idea of eternity may be known by the use he makes of time."

"Temperance is reason's girdle and passion's bridle, the strength of the soul, and the foundation of virtue."—Jeremy Taylor.

"Defilement in the heart makes cataracts on the eyes so far as visions of God are concerned."

Prayer is work, dost thou believe it?
Prayer is power, wilt thou receive it?
Prayer the path the Saviour trod,
Prayer the touch that links with God;
Make thy life a prayer,
He will answer—here or there.

WHITE DRESSES

I think a Christian can go anywhere," said a young woman who was defending her continued attendance at some very doubtful places of amusement.

"Certainly she can," rejoined her friend, "but I am reminded of a little incident that happened last summer when I went with a party of friends to explore a coal mine. One of the young women appeared dressed in a dainty white gown. When her friends remonstrated with her, she appealed to the old miner who was to act as guide of the party.

"'Can't I wear a white dress down into the mine?' she asked petulantly.

"'Yes'm,' returned the old man. 'There's nothin' to keep you from wearin' a white frock down there, but there'll be considerable to keep you from wearin' one back.'"

There is nothing to prevent the Christian wearing his white garments when he seeks the fellowship of that which is unclean, but there is a good deal to prevent him wearing white garments afterward.—Church of Christ Advocate.

THE PASSWORD

Some one says that there will be a password at the gate of heaven. Some will come up and knock repeatedly. The gatekeeper will say, "The password?" They will reply, "We have no password. We were great on earth, and now we come to be great in heaven." A voice from within will answer, "I never knew you."

Another group comes and knocks. The gatekeeper says, "The password?" They say, "We have no password. We have done many noble things on earth. We endowed colleges and gave large sums to charity." The voice from within again says, "I never knew you."

A third group approaches and knocks. The gatekeeper says, "The password?" The answer, "We were wanderers from God, and deserve to die; but we heard of the voice of Jesus—"

"Ay, ay!" says the gatekeeper; "that is the password! Lift up your heads, ye everlasting gates, and let these people in!"—Banks.

Circumstances are the rulers of the weak; they are the instruments of the strong.—Lover.