

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

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

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EDITORIAL

DON'T GET INTO A RUT!

Someone has quite strikingly defined a rut as being "a grave with the ends knocked out of it." Quite a true description, I think we'll agree.

Monotony is a deadly thing. Variety is stimulating. In every phase of life and organized effort we witness a settled apprehension of sameness and a deep appreciation of the value of variation. A change of approach, method, form, etc., is recognized as an essential stimulus to the success and growth of any enterprise. Individuals and organizations are cautious of becoming "grooved."

Doubtless, the children of the world are wiser in this generation than the children of light. It may be a weakness of the Christian in personal evangelism and the church in group effort that we fail to appreciate the value of variation. If we employ the same method in dealing with every person we will oftentimes sense that things just don't fit. What is effective with one may be less applicable to another. We have but one message, Christ and Him crucified, nor do we need another, but there are various ways to most successfully bring that message to different individuals. "He that winneth souls is wise," and most essentially so in recognizing the advantages of approaching a person with a view to their particular circumstances and peculiar personal traits.

Likewise, in our group efforts, there is a serious and deadly danger of our becoming stereotyped. If we always use the same mold and have but one pattern, our services can lose their zest and interest just because of their sameness. There is a suspicious sign of stagnation and indication of mold and decay about some church programmes. Every meeting conducted in exactly the same manner. A limited number of hymns and songs "sung to death" (quite literally). Prayers offered by a small group of willing "regulars." In a word, the whole programme is in the grave rut. And what of the result? The attendance of the apathetic, but faithful few. A succession of services that bear the same unlovely characteristics of alikeness. So interest lags, and our Y. P. Societies die a slow and painless death.

This is not a suggestion that our Gospel and our Christ are "old fashioned" as some call them. Neither is it a suggestion that we compromise to the social and theatrical methods of so many so-called Christian Youth Groups of our times. By no means. As previously stated, we believe Christ is the one message for young and old. We are also fully persuaded that suppers, moving pictures, gymnasiums, etc., are weak substitutes for the power of the Gospel to save and keep young people. But we do strongly insist that there is much to be learned and gained by avoiding the dread opiate of monotony, and employing the beautiful stimulus of variety.

If your Y. P. Society is dying instead of living, declining instead of growing, something is wrong. Make a careful check-up. See if your group is holding to an invariable method or programme, and if so, spice things up with variety. God save us from burying ourselves in a rut-grave!

JUST AHEAD

Beulah Camp, the great spiritual event of the year for an increasing number of young people, is just before us. Just a little more than six weeks to plan and make final preparation. We are hoping to see a large attendance of young people. Yes, the dates are July 3rd—12th.

A FINAL REMINDER

To young people of Districts 2 and 4. Special rallies are scheduled for May 25th. The rally of District No. 4 is to be held at Sanford, N. S., and that of No. 2 at Salem, N. B. Societies of these districts are requested to send written reports and have good representations present. We are expecting that these services will be of benefit and uplift to our young people's work. Come with your prayers, your talents, musical instruments, etc., and above all, come seeking and expecting a special blessing from the Lord. Reserve May 25th for these meetings.

QUESTION BOX

At the request of our district president, Mr. Deverne Mullen, the editor of the Young People's page will conduct a question box in the afternoon service of the District No. 2 Y. P. Rally. All questions should be addressed to Rev. B. C. Cochrane, 114 Archibald St., Moncton, N. B. If there is not sufficient time for mailing questions, bring them along to the Rally.

Remember, these things come not back;

The arrow sent upon its track—

It will not swerve, it will not stay

Its speed, it flies to wound or slay;

The spoken word, so soon forgot

By thee, but it has perished not;

In other hearts 'tis living still,

And doing work for good or ill;

And the lost opportunity

That cometh back no more to thee—

In vain thou weapest, in vain dost yearn,

Those three will nevermore return.

—From the Arabic

SOWING THE SEED

Do you know that the right or wrong you do
Will come back of a certain some day to you?—

You cannot escape the shadows they cast

Over your future, along your past;

Whatever you do sends echoes back

Or across or forward, along your track.

Sure as the sun shines over the earth

Thoughts, ambitions, and love have birth;

And nothing can stay them,—results must
come:

Once spoken, a word can never be dumb.

The flower of love,—the deceit of hate,—

The value of purity,—falsehood's mate,—

Whichever you plant will come back to you,

For you can't get away from the deeds you do.

Farther back in your sin-stained soul,

Or deeper down in your innocence whole,

Farther or deeper, whichever it be,

Intensified character builds, you see.

And your own blackens or glows with life,

According to what you put into the strife.

—Selected

CORRESPONDENCE

Amherst, N. S.

Dear Young People:

It will soon be Beulah Camp Meeting time again. How wonderful it will be to be there with all that this means! It makes one consider and think back over the path of our soul experience during the last year. A thought that came to me was, how important it is to learn to stand alone. Here is where so many fail, and where the stalwart ones have been made strong. To succeed here it is necessary to pray, "Lord keep me willing always to pay the price necessary to stand alone." This price involves a letting go process, and this holds an element of death. It means sometimes saying yes to the knife that severs us from heart's desire that we may continue close to Jesus' side.

Some saints call this way the Death Route. Yet it is the way of life more abundant. It is a walk with the Man of Sorrows, yet with Him who was anointed with the Oil of Joy above His fellows.

The entrance to this way is the Gate of Sanctification of the Spirit. God, the Holy Spirit enters our heart to abide for ever; cleansing us with fire, the flame of which destroys Original Sin. If the Holy Spirit dwells in us, let us walk in the Spirit, let our footsteps weave out the pattern of the impulses of the Indwelling Presence.

There will be battles, heavy battles, some fought in silence and alone; there will be days of siege when we will be sifted as wheat. There will be tests, perhaps, that we can tell no human friend; how else can we learn really to lean on Christ? He trod Gethsemane alone. Forsaken by all, His passion could not be denied; He could not be turned back; He did not know how to retreat. He was jealous over us, that the Evil One holds us not captive for ever in misery and woe; and the fury and flame of His passion upheld Him through those dark, dark hours. To know Him is to know the secret of this inner strength of standing alone, and to stand alone is to know Him.

A touch of that flaming passion of His on the altars of our hearts has power to grip our lives with a compelling force, a driving force that cuts through all obstacles, that prays prayers that make a way where there is no way. This love of God for poor lost sinners was in St. Paul a burning, flaming, soul-shaking force that had power to turn the world up-side down. He said: "I die daily." He knew the Death Route.

Those who learn to stand alone for Christ will some day stand with Him, a vast triumphant throng; Heaven's courts ringing with their praises.

Yours in Him,

JUDSON SANDERS

If people only knew their own brothers and sisters, the Kingdom of Heaven would not be far off.—George Eliot.

The most precious things are the commonest, and these are to be gained, not by large fortunes, but by large souls.—Bishop Westcott.