

## A NEW YEAR MOTTO

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

## YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—I. Timothy 4:12  
Editor: REV. W. H. MULLEN, Westchester, N. S.

## WELCOME 1945

May 1945 be to all our young people a year of happiness, successful achievement, and deepened spirituality.

## MINUTE BIOGRAPHIES OF GREAT CHRISTIANS

## John Newton

What Christian soul can remain unresponsive when he hears that great church hymn:

"How sweet the Name of Jesus sounds  
In a believer's ear!  
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,  
And drives away our fear."

Let skeptics take note, that the author of these sublime words, John Newton, was once a vicious slave trader, so wicked that even his own tough fellow sailors would shun his presence.

## A Miracle of Gods Grace

But the convicting power of the Holy Spirit was following Newton even while he was engaged in his corrupt practices. Suddenly, in the midst of a profitable trading enterprise, he grew sick of his way of life and turned to God with a seeking heart. Nothing but the transforming grace of God could have effected the wondrous change wrought in that cruel sailor's soul.

## Little Education

Newton was born in London, England, July 24, 1722, the son of a mariner employed in the Mediterranean service. Young John when only four could recite from memory the "Shorter Catechism" of his church, and knew by heart many children's hymns. His formal education was very meagre, however, since he did not attend school longer than two years in his whole life.

## Slave Trader

Newton loved the sea, shipping often with his father on his trading voyages. When he was only eleven, he had already completed five trips to the Mediterranean, and it was not long until he became master of a vessel of his own.

The slave trade was very profitable at this time, and Newton spent most of his life until 1775 in the selling and hauling of his human cargoes. But it was in the midst of this evil business that God saved his soul.

## A Gospel Minister

Newton, although deprived of school, spent considerable time in improving himself scholastically, and after leaving his obnoxious occupation, declared his call to preach. Ordination was at first refused him, and it was not until 1764, eight or nine years later, that he was ordained and given a church. He spent some time in the town of Olney, where he became acquainted with William Cowper, noted poet and hymn writer, author of the blessed hymn, "There is a Fountain Filled with Blood." Later he was transferred to a church in London where he spent the rest of his life.

## Writings and Death

One biographer said of Newton: "Few theologians of the last century (18th) contributed more to the recommendation and advancement of experimental religion." Truly, it was

religion as an experience rather than a system of thought that contributed most to him, and he in turn to it.

But it is chiefly as a hymn writer that we know this remarkable man today. He wrote among others, "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken," and "Approach, My Soul, the Mercy Seat." In closing, we quote again from one of his hymns, one that shows the influence of his days at sea.

"Begone, unbelief, my Saviour's near,  
And for my relief will surely appear.  
By prayer let me wrestle and He will perform;  
With Christ in the vessel I smile at the storm."

John Newton died, at the age of 85, in London, December 21, 1807.—W. H. M.

## NOTICE

Occasionally, reports or other material for the Y. P. Page have been sent to Brother Cochrane. Although we feel that he does not mind forwarding them to the Y. P. Editor, please help save time and bother by sending all Young People's material direct to Y. P. Editor, Rev. W. H. Mullen, Westchester, N. S.

## CHRISTIAN YOUTH

## R. Barclay Warren

"Oh, well, he's only young. What more can you expect?" So the misdemeanors of professed Christian youth are excused. Youth themselves, sensing the readiness of the elders to excuse, often take advantage of their elders' generosity and indulge their foolishness a little further.

It ought not so to be. Paul said to Timothy, "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." 1 Tim. 4:12. Young folk, we are not asking the elders to wink at sin in us. Rather we are going to be examples or types of true Christianity. We haven't the maturity which long experience brings, but we will be examples of the purity which salvation affords.

A young Christian has the essentials of Christianity. Let us be true to them. You can be just as good a sample of Christianity as the hoary headed saint. A young saint has unlimited capacity for development and growth but nevertheless is a saint; a demonstration to the world of what a Christian is.

Let us answer the challenge of the scripture. Ask no quarter at the hand of the critics, but accept the responsibility of faithfully representing the Christian religion in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Shall we say, "Yes, Paul, by the grace of God we will." Amen.

## LIVING FOR ETERNITY

To live for today is in the noblest sense to live for eternity. To be my very best this very hour, to do the very best for those about me, and to spend this moment in a spirit of absolute consecration to God's glory—that is the duty that confronts me day after day.—David J. Burrell.

## SOCIETY LETTERS

Hartland, N. B.

Dear Highway Young People:

Greetings in the name of our blessed Redeemer! We are glad to report at this time the reorganization of the Hartland-Victoria Y. P. S. The first service was held in Hartland, Nov. 3rd, 1944, with thirteen present.

Officers were appointed as follows:

President—B. S. Dow.

Vice Pres.—Mrs. A. D. Cann.

Secretary—Mrs. B. S. Dow.

Treasurer—Mrs. Clifton London.

Organist—Mrs. Lynn McRea.

Reporter—Miss Faith Selby.

Mr. Burlock gave an address on faith, taken from Heb. 11:6.

May God make our society a real blessing is our earnest prayer.

Yours in His service,

FAITH SEELY

Hd. of Millstream, N. B.

Dear Young People:

A Young People's Society was organized at the head of Millstream in October.

Officers were elected as follows:

President—Jean Fair.

Secretary—Mrs. Lloyd Hayes.

Treasurer—Lloyd Hayes.

The Lord blesses us very much in the meetings. We thank Him for the privilege of having Brother Moses with us. Please pray for our young people in this place.

Yours in Him,

JEAN FAIR

## EACH DAY

One vow will not suffice the long year through  
One prayer a twelve-month's needs may not allay;

Crown every morn with pure resolve anew,  
And live each day as though 'twere New Year's Day.

—Unidentified

## NEW YEAR PRAYER

Lord, as we greet the bright New Year  
Help us to cast out doubt and fear;  
Help us to lay our faults aside  
As New Year's portals open wide.

Grant us the peace Thy Blessing brings,  
Let us find joy in little things,  
Keep us from hatred, greed, and spite,  
Help us be valiant for the right.

Oh, grant that through the coming year  
We may not cause one bitter tear;  
But let us more compassion feel,  
That we a brother's wounds may heal.

Give us new faith, that we may be  
More worthy to walk close to Thee;  
Aid us to turn from strife and sin,  
And bless us as we enter in.

—Mary Davis Reed