

CHALLENGE TO YOUTH

"I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong." 1 John 2:14.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

"Let no man despise thy youth"—1. Timothy 4:12
Editor: REV. W. H. MULLEN, Westchester, N. S.

THE NEW YEAR

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it."—Rev. 3:8.

MINUTE BIOGRAPHIES OF GREAT CHRISTIANS

Richard Watson

It is a paradox of life that some of the world's greatest contributors to the advancement of knowledge and literature have been seriously afflicted with delicate or diseased bodies. Immediately we think of John Milton, William Cowper, John Keats, Robert Louis Stevenson, and others too numerous to mention. The greatest theologian-preacher-missionary of all time, the Apostle Paul, was troubled with a "thorn in the flesh."

Included in this group of "great minds which have been united throughout life with weak bodily frames" is Richard Watson, fiery preacher and brilliant writer who lived in the days of early Methodism. He was born Feb. 22nd, 1781, at Barton, Lincolnshire, England.

Passion for Reading

Watson, though weak in body and subject to spells of extreme drowsiness, indulged a natural passion for books. On one occasion, when but a youth, he hid the bar which was used to fasten the door of his father's saddle shop, in order that under the pretense of watching for robbers, he might stay up all night and read a new book. Young Richard was sent to school for awhile, but he had to leave at the early age of fourteen, after which he was apprenticed to a carpenter.

Controversy Leads to Conversion

With help from a friend, Watson continued his studies, however, and it was due, strange as it seems, to the argumentative spirit of his Calvinistic tutor that he was converted. He needed material with which to meet the clever but odious arguments of his friend, and for this purpose began attending some Methodist meetings; but there the spirit of the Lord moved on his heart, and not many days afterward "he was made a happy partaker of pardoning grace."

Youthful Preacher

Watson had not yet reached his fifteenth birthday when he began telling his fellowmen about God, and on Feb. 23rd, 1796, he preached his first public sermon. Like many young preachers starting out, he had to stop in the midst of one sermon for the lack of "acceptable words."

He was taken into fellowship with the Methodists, and soon became very successful both in his preaching of the "old line" truths which Wesley had done so much to advance, and in his writings. His career attracted the attention of the most learned of the day, and he was recognized as one of the foremost evangelical preachers of England.

Greatest Writings

The name of Richard Watson is known today chiefly for its association with such works as the BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY, and THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTES, the latter being regarded as a classic in Methodist literature, and well worthy of a place in any preacher's library. Watson's LIFE OF WESLEY is a noble work revealing many new and refreshing aspects of the life of Methodism's founder.

Painful Death

This man of God died in great agony, "having suffered far more, according to the testimony of his medical friends, than many victims of death by fire," but he left behind him a record of tremendous achievement and passed on, January 8, 1833, in the full triumph of faith. W. H. M.

THE UNFAILING REMEDY

An American bishop was one day walking through the streets of a city, when he met one of its prominent physicians, who offered him a seat in his car.

The physician was an infidel. After a while the conversation turned upon religion.

"I am surprised," said the infidel doctor, "that such an intelligent man as you are should believe such an old fable as that."

The bishop made no immediate reply, but some time afterwards said: "Doctor, suppose that years ago someone had recommended to you a prescription for pulmonary consumption, and given you directions concerning it, and you had procured the medicine and taken it as directed, and had been cured of that terrible disease. Suppose that you had used that prescription in your practice ever since, and had never known it to fail when taken according to directions, what would you say to the man who could not believe in, and would not try your prescription?"

"I should say he was a fool," replied the physician.

"Twenty-five years ago," said the bishop, "I tried the power of God's grace. It made a different man of me. All these years I have preached salvation to others, and wherever it has been accepted I have never known it to fail. I have seen it make the proud man humble, the drunken man temperate, the profane man pure of speech, the dishonest true. The rich and the poor, the learned and the unlearned, the old and the young, have alike been healed of their diseases."

"You have caught me fairly, bishop; I have been a fool," said the physician.

And that was not the end of it. The infidel doctor became the superintendent of a prosperous Sunday School.—Sel.

God does not want us to be contented with insignificant achievement when, with His help, we may hew our way to better things for the Kingdom of God.—J. R. Miller.

Some people try to climb up to faith on the shoulders of feeling. God's way is to believe His word first and accept the fact of your redemption in Christ. You will then rejoice in believing. God's order is fact—faith—feeling.—Archibald G. Brown.

Starting to argue about a duty usually means starting to explain it away.—L. & L. Evangel.

SELF-DENIAL FUND

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HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED?

When the other fellow acts that way, he is "ugly"; when you do, it's "nerves."

When the other fellow is set in his ways, he's "obstinate"; when you are, it is just "firmness."

When the other fellow doesn't like your friend, he's "prejudiced"; when you don't like his, you simply are showing that you are a good judge of human nature.

When the other fellow takes time to do things, he is "dead slow"; when you do it you are "deliberate."

When the other fellow spends a lot, he's a "spendthrift"; when you do, you are "generous."

When the other fellow picks flaws in things, he's "cranky"; when you do, you are "discriminating."

When the other fellow is mild in his manners, he is a "much of concession"; when you are, it is being "gracious."

When the other fellow gets destructive, it is "toughness"; with you it is "forcefulness."

When the other fellow dresses extra well, he's a "dude"; when you do, it is simply "a duty one owes to society."

When the other fellow runs great risks in business, he's "foolhardy"; when you do, you are a "great financier."

When the other fellow says what he thinks, he's "spiteful"; when you do, you are "frank."

When the other fellow won't get caught in a new scheme, he's "backwoodsy"; when you won't you are "conservative."—Exchange.

FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS AWARD

Will be given to that person who will produce a card-playing, theatre-going, Sabbath-breaking, cigarette-smoking, dancing church member, who has gained a reputation for personal piety, prevailing prayer, family devotions, tithing, regularity in church and prayer-meeting attendance, and success in soul-winning.

Such a person must present an affidavit from three Christians, including his or her minister; and, further, must give a demonstration of soul-winning for two weeks in a designated parish.

The decision of three impartial judges will be final. Who will claim the award?

W. W. HOLLAND, Minister,
Delta Avenue Methodist Church,
Cincinnati, Ohio

DEFINITION OF FAITH

When John Paton, the pioneer missionary to the New Hebrides, was translating the Scriptures into the language of the people of the Southern seas, he had great difficulty in securing a world for faith; there seemed to be no equivalent in their language. He made it a special matter of prayer, and one day one of the workers came in from a hard day's work, and leaning back on a lounge chair, said, "Oh, I'm so tired, I feel I must lean my whole weight on this chair." "Praise God," said Paton, "I've got my word, 'God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever leaneth his whole weight on Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life.'"—Selected.