

"Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

—ECCLES. 12:1

YOUNG PEOPLE'S PAGE

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Y. P. Editor:

Rev. W. H. Mullen
90 WINTHROP AVE.

Wollaston

Mass.

YOUTH IN ACTION

The following is a very significant statement for Christian young people:

"It is to the colleges and universities, particularly the church-related institutions with their spiritual emphasis, that the world must look for leadership necessary to restore the moral and spiritual losses suffered in the war."

In Albany, N. Y., much controversy has been raging over the granting of credit for religious instruction. On the question, it is heartening to hear Dr. E. R. Van Kleeck, assistant commissioner of education says:

"The boards of education of the various school districts are fully within their rights in granting such credit. Moreover, it is customary to grant graduation credits for instrumental music instruction, and on the same basis of one-quarter unit per year of the four-year high-school year. Which is more important—the bass viol and the bassoon or the study of the fundamental of all disciplines, religion?"

"As an individual, it seems to me that such teaching is of paramount value. Are we to believe that one hour a week, which is the actual practice, is too much?"

From an article on courage, the following is an account of a Christian young man in action:

And when a very young man breaks home ties and finds himself in the army with all sorts of conditions and men, he needs the courage of a real conviction as far as showing his religious colors is concerned.

The following letter from an 18-year-old boy inducted a few weeks ago reveals real courage:

"The first night on the train there were about six fellows in our compartment and I was getting ready for bed. Most of the fellows were feeling pretty low so I summoned up enough courage to ask them if they would mind if I read aloud from the Bible.

"To my surprise they were all for it—there were fellows from all walks of life. I read the twenty-fifth Psalm—I didn't pick it, the book just fell open to it, but I know I couldn't have picked a better one under the circumstances. After I had finished the fellows thanked me and left.

"The next night they were back again and asked me to read the same Psalm!"

Recent reports reveal that a new theological seminary has been opened in Leningrad, Russia, for the training of young men to the ministry of the Orthodox Church.

On Christmas Day, His Majesty the King included in his broadcast this challenge to the youth of the Empire:

To the younger of you I would say a special word.

You have grown up in a world at war, in which your fine spirit of service has been devoted to a single purpose—the overthrow and destruction of enemies.

You have known the world only as a world of strife and fear. Bring now all that fine spirit to make it one of joyous adventure, a home where men and women can live in mutual trust and walk together as friends.

Do not judge life by what you have seen of it in the grimness and waste of war, nor vet

by the confusion of the first years of peace.

Have faith in life at its best and bring to it your courage, your hopes and your sense of humor.

For merriment is the birthright of the young. But we can all keep it in our hearts as life goes on, if we hold fast by the spirit that refuses to admit defeat; by the faith that never falters; by the hope that cannot be quenched.

Let us have no fear of the future but think of it as opportunity and adventure.

The same dauntless resolve, which you have shown so abundantly in the years of danger, that the power of darkness shall not prevail, must now be turned to a happier purpose to making the light shine more brightly everywhere."

SAVED TO SERVE

The story is told that once as a young man, Charles Spurgeon was preaching about the martyr Stephen. His sermon was suddenly interrupted by a question from an unbeliever, who shouted: "What did God do to help Stephen when he was being stoned to death?" That was a shrewd thrust. What did God do? He did not turn the stones aside. He did not carry Stephen away to safety. Spurgeon had an answer, indeed the answer, ready. He replied, "God enabled Stephen to pray, 'Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.'" God delivered Stephen in his distress by giving him grace to forgive and to die in glowing, joyful faith. We happen to know some of the consequences of that deliverance. There was present that day a young man named Saul, consenting to the killing. Saul was the leader of the persecution of the infant Christian Church. Not long afterwards Saul swung right over and gave himself to Christ. Humanly speaking, it was Saul who saved Christianity for the Gentile world. We live in a Christian country. We meet today in a Christian church, partly because God delivered Stephen in his distress, and enabled him to die with words of forgiveness and faith upon his lips.

God delivers out of, and in our distress. But our prayer must be not only a cry of distress, but also an act of lifelong commitment and a prayer that His will may be done. "In this world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."—H. W. Theobald, in Family Herald.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD

General Gordon regretted that no one had told him when he was a young man that there was a Holy Spirit whom he could possess and who could possess him. The knowledge would have saved weakness, sorrow and loss, but when the Spirit came he passed out of weakness into strength, out of poverty into wealth and out of defeat into triumph. That is God's intention for every one of us, but the awful possibility is that we shall refuse to make room for the Spirit or impose limits to His indwelling. Like the oil, the power is stayed because we fail to seek His filling, but let any man bring his heart like an empty vessel, and it will be filled to overflowing with all the fulness of God—H. G. Doel.

LIFE

Life affords no higher pleasure than that of surmounting difficulties, passing from one step of success to another, forming new wishes and seeing them gratified. He that labors in any great or laudable understanding has his fatigues first supported by hope and afterwards rewarded by joy.—Dr. Johnson.

DUTY

We must do the things we must
Before the thing we may;
We are unfit for any trust
Till we can and do obey.

—George Macdonald

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Our greatest glory consists not in never failing, but in rising every time we fall.—Oliver Goldsmith.

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The only sure way to get rid of a past is by getting a future out of it.—Phillips Brooks.

THE SINGING HEART

R. B. Warren

Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus: "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs; singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." (Eph. 5:18-20). The singing heart is definitely a characteristic of the Christian. Not all Christians are able to sing well, but every Spirit-filled person makes melody in his heart to the Lord. The melody of the heart will be reflected in the outer life.

A song is always written to some key. It may be the key of G. Around this note the harmony is blended. The key note is of prime importance. In the Spirit-filled life the melody is not to the key of G, but TO THE LORD. He has first place. Many lives are in discord because their keynote is money, a friend, pleasure or fame. It is true that we must have money, friends and pleasure, but to make any of them the keynote is to ensure failure. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

This melody does not cease in the day of trouble. Afflictions, sorrow, disappointment and bereavement will come, but God giveth songs in the night. Some of the most effective witnesses for the salvation provided by our Lord Jesus Christ have been saints who had songs in their night.

Is there melody in your heart? Or are you serving sin and your harp is hung on the willow? Surrender all to Jesus Christ. Let Him save you. Then let His Spirit fill your consecrated life and you, too, will make melody in your heart to the Lord.

"Take Thou the sad discordant keys
Of every troubled breast,
And blend to peaceful harmonies
The sighings of unrest.
Transformed, by grace divine,
The glory shall be Thine,
To Thy most holy will, O Lord,
We now our all resign."