

YOUTH'S PLACE IN THE GREAT COMMISSION

(Continued from Page 1)

found Thanatopsis, which is regarded with undying admiration, was produced when he was eighteen years of age.

Three of England's great poets died in youth. Byron was thirty-six; Shelley, thirty-one; Keats, twenty-five.

Henry Clay was endowed with rare abilities. He entered the House of Representatives when he was only thirty-four but so esteemed were his gifts that he was made Speaker of the House the first day he was a member of that body.

The whole history of cotton spinning was changed by the invention of the "mule." It is a complicated machine of which the Encyclopedia Britannica says: "Probably no inventive contribution has been offered to the cotton trade more important than the 'mule.'" The inventor worked several years to perfect his machine. His name was Samuel Crompton, and his age at the time of his inventions was sixteen years.

Chinese Gordon, an English hero, had just turned thirty when he was entrusted with the supreme command of the Chinese Army and in two years "crushed the formidable rebellion which had so long wasted the fairest provinces of China." He was an outstanding Christian and the Encyclopedia Britannica says: "He won with his simple faith the reverence of the English-speaking world."

The Rev. Richard Watson, one of the keenest theologians that ever lived, author of Theological Institutes (one of the greatest books on the subject ever written) entered the ministry when he was sixteen years old.

Thomas Cooke, the first Bishop in America, was ready for college at sixteen.

Adoniram Judson entered Providence College when he was sixteen. His wife, Ann, was distinguished for her talent, and at the age of eighteen began a successful career as a school teacher. This noble couple were pioneer missionaries in Burma and suffered extreme hardships without wavering.

David Brainerd, whose mighty prayers and ministration stirred savage hearts in remote wilderness encampments, finished his noble work and went to heaven before he was thirty.

John and Charles Wesley were young men when the Holy Club was formed. John was a "Lecturer in Greek" at twenty-three, and Charles was a university student at eighteen. The Wesleyan revival saved England from the horrors of the French Revolution.

By the time he was twenty-four, George Whitefield had preached to vast multitudes in Bristol and London, had visited America, and had laid plans for his orphanage in Georgia. His influence was marvelous; people traveled fifty miles to hear him preach, and thousands were deeply impressed. "No speaker in all records ever addressed so many of his fellow men or affected them so deeply." (This statement is, of course, from the days before radio).

Thomas Walsh, one of Wesley's preachers, died at twenty-eight, but it was after he had worn himself out in service. "The young preacher seemed to be a saint come back to men over the eternal portal."

Robert Newton, "The most popular preacher since Whitefield," at eighteen preached his first sermon, standing behind a chair in a cottage where a chapel was later erected.

Samuel Morris, the colored boy of Africa, who died in his youth, lived such a godly life that to this day his grave is visited by admir-

ing people who have been inspired by his noble consecration. He came to America to learn more about God, and lies buried in Indiana.

The great Francis Asbury at eighteen years of age was preaching five times a week. "This was the tireless man who was to be the Wesley of America." At twenty-seven he was placed in full charge of all the churches of America by appointment of John Wesley himself. He left a record of sacrificial service that has hardly been equalled anywhere, and out of his consecrated efforts Methodism became established on this continent.

One of the most eloquent sacred orators since the days of Whitefield was John Sumner. Up to the time of his death it was said that no American had in as short a time "so deeply touched the people." He began preaching at the age of twenty and immediately large throngs came to hear him. He died at twenty-seven, "closing his brilliant career at the age when Demosthenes and many others began theirs."

Bishop Matthew Simpson who "for years was the orator of Methodism," had no ability as a public speaker in his youth. This ought to be an encouragement to every young person to go ahead whether or not he feels that he has any talent. The Bishop's own statement, given to help young preachers was very simple. His first step was to utterly forget himself, to banish all thoughts of oratory and simply to make the utmost effort to say things so that people could understand them at the first saying. However, "he was often slow, sometimes dull sometimes a failure." Let no young person, therefore, be discouraged!

Bishop Baker began "exhorting" when he was seventeen. Bishop Thompson, at nineteen, had a Medical Diploma from the University of Pennsylvania; at his first open-air sermon sixty-five people were seekers and forty-six joined the church. Bishop Foster was in the ministry at seventeen. Bishop Keener, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, graduated from the Wesleyan University at the age of sixteen years.

The full list of youthful workers will never be revealed until the record books of heaven are opened. Multitudes have not won recognition but have served with faithfulness, nevertheless. Great will be their reward. It is like the list of Hebrews—so great that time would fail before a complete enumeration could be given.

Let no young person think he has no place in the affairs of the Kingdom. He can live a consistent life. He can read his Bible until it lives again in him. He can pray until his own life is radiant and other souls become hungry. He can testify; he can sing; he can invite souls; he can be friendly; he can be faithful in attendance; he can be his pastor's assistant; he can be an example to others; he can encourage the weak; he can rebuke the wayward; he can visit the sick. Oh! It is surprising what a lot of things a young person can find to do, if he wishes.

It is not merely talent that brings us usefulness. It is purposeful living. Anyone, talented or untalented, can have a fixed purpose in life.

The place of youth in the Great Commission! Who can describe it? Who dare limit it? It is a grand and glorious place! Let none belittle it—rather let us exaltingly enter into it, and herein

"Let us labor for the Master
From the dawn to setting sun."

—Wesleyan Methodist

LETTERS FROM OUR PASTORS

Dear Highway Family:

Seal Cove, N. B.

It has been quite some time since we reported our work through the columns of The Highway. We would like to again at this time. Our work is and has been going good and we feel is in a healthy condition.

Last November we had Brother Dunlop with us for a short meeting at Seal Cove, beginning on Monday and closing the following Sunday. This was a profitable meeting. Some definite victory was realized and God was with us. Our brother's preaching was deep and convincing; the church appreciated the same and was helped.

In January we had the privilege of having Brothers Norman Trafton and Randolph Nicholson with us at Seal Cove for a revival campaign. We had a real good meeting; the attendance and interest were excellent and God gave us victory. The united efforts of our brethren made a strong team and brought the gospel message to the needy with clarity and force. The result was that conviction rested on the people and there was a good response at the altar.

We have also just finished a three Sunday meeting at Wood Island with these brethren. Although the Island population is only around 75 persons, our average attendance was about 45. Conviction rested mightily on the unsaved, few if any on the Island failed to feel the effects of this meeting. Our brethren labored faithfully and God honoured their united efforts. We had a precious meeting and good results. Brother Trafton is a strong evangelistic preacher and puts his all into it, and Brother Nicholson is an excellent chalk artist and worker. We would without hesitation recommend these men for revival meetings; they will give you a good meeting and will help your church.

Our ministry here with these churches is drawing to a close and we wish to take this opportunity to say that we have greatly enjoyed and appreciated the privilege of pastoring these churches. They have co-operated with us wonderfully and have supported us well in every way. The unity, charity and patience of these people, we feel, is outstanding. It is stimulating to work with people that are not divided or envious of one another, and where there is no bickering and quarrelling. Of course these things are absent where the life of holiness is demonstrated. The writer feels he is a better man and a better minister by having known and worked with these fine people. God has been good to us during these seven years, and we will be leaving some fruit that will remain, we believe, through life or until Jesus comes. We trust that God shall bless them and their new pastor during the coming years.

We are taking up the work at Perth after Beulah and we are expecting the same God to bless and use us there to the salvation of souls and the upbuilding of His cause. We trust to be remembered in the prayers of the Highway family.

May God richly bless all our churches and pastors and all the Highway family in the coming year.

Anticipating a great Beulah this summer and looking forward to seeing you all there, we are,

Yours in Christ,
REV. & MRS. G. R. SYMONDS