

U. B. C. E.

The United Brethren Christian Endeavor Society:

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CHARLOTTE, MICHIGAN.

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LITERATURE. THE CHRISTIAN CONSERVATOR contains practical helps on each topic each week, and should have a wide reading among U. B. C. E. members and workers.

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THE QUARTERLY COLLECTION should be sent promptly to the general treasurer,
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This page furnished by Miss M. M. Titus.

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Sun., Jan. 2.—Topic—Through this year with God. Num. 9: 15-23; 10:10. (A New Year's consecration meeting.)

DAILY READINGS.

M., Dec. 27. In his work. John 9: 1-7.
T., Dec. 28. In my labor. Eph. 6: 5-20.
W., Dec. 29. In my home. Josh. 24: 14-24.
T., Dec. 30. In my church. Heb. 10: 19-25.
F., Dec. 31. With my Bible. Psalm 1: 1910.
S., Jan. 1. With his Spirit. Gal. 5: 16-26.

WHY NOT ON JANUARY 1?

Why not make this a genuine New Year's meeting by holding it on New Year's Day, and as near the beginning of the year as possible, namely before breakfast? Since New Year's Day comes on Saturday, most of the members will be able to attend with no complications arising from school duties. Try it, and see if you do not have the best meeting your society has ever enjoyed.

HINTS FOR BEGINNERS.

Determine to make a good start in the new year by doing something harder than usual in the prayer meeting—making a little progress. If you have been reading a Bible verse, then commit it to memory this time and add a single thought of your own. If you have been doing that, then offer a brief prayer. If you have been sitting down while speaking, stand up this time and see how much better it will be.

"A HAPPY NEW YEAR."

This is a sensible salutation, if we define happiness as Christ defined it in the Beatitudes; it is not so sensible if we define it as the world defines it, merely in terms of dollars and pleasures and pride. When happiness is synonymous with holiness, it is worth while; when it is not, it is not true happiness, but a miserable cheat, sure to be discovered before long.

"THE ROAD TO HELL."

A foolish proverb says that "the road to hell is paved with good resolutions." It would be far nearer the truth to say, "The devil trembles before a good resolution," or "The highway to heaven is made of good resolutions." Of

course bad men make occasional good resolutions, and weak men make many of them, and, of course, many good resolutions are broken; but, just the same, if good resolutions were not made and kept there would be no progress, and wise men and strong men make most of the good resolutions that are made, and they keep them, too. Never let me hear you use that proverb again!

"THROUGH THE YEAR WITH GOD."

God is always ready to walk with his children; indeed, we know that he likes nothing better. If we only invite him into our new year he will gladly come; but it must be a genuine heart invitation. And as long as the heart invitation is continued, his presence will be continued. And what a companion for our journey through the year! A guide that can see the end from the beginning and can help over all hard places, a comforter in all trials, a light for all darkness, a friend in all loneliness—is it conceivable that any one in his senses would wish to go a step on the way without him?

BEGIN.

The New Year's resolution which is merely an intention to start on some good work next week or the first of February is dead before it was born. "Do it now" is a motto found on many business men's desks; it is before me as I write, printed in staring white letters on a black background. It has rescued many a good resolution for me from the pit of nothingness. Make that your New Year's motto.

A YEAR OF PRAYER.

There is only one way to get God into your year, and that is through the gate of prayer. Let this be a year of the quiet hour. Determine really to talk with God each day before you talk with any of God's creatures, and get God's orders before you begin any work. Determine to take all your perplexities to God and ask his help in them. Determine to talk with him in perfect confidence that he will answer, and then listen for the answer. Have a year with God, and don't rest satisfied with a year with any good book or any good man. Go to headquarters.

THE NEW YEAR "FORGITTERY."

"My memory is pretty poor," said the old lady, "but I have a mighty good forgittery." Often a good forgittery is more valuable than a good memory. It is especially so at this time of the year. "Forgetting those things which are behind," said Paul. That is the only way we can press toward the mark. Do not carry into the new year the worries of the old year. Forget your grudges. Forget the ugly words that were said and the mean things that were done. Forget your failures. Forget your doubts. Forget your fears.

THE VALUE OF TIME.

One of the chief gains from the observation of New Year is a fresh sense of the value of time. Another twelvemonth gone; and how quickly it has passed! Before you realize it, this year will be over. "Redeem the time." "Buy up the opportunity." The only time you have is the present instant, and while you are debating about it you lose it. Now is the only accepted time. To-day, if you would hear God's voice, harden not your heart. Probably nothing except their decision regarding Christ makes so great a difference in men's lives as their varying care of the minutes. Fifteen minutes study a day will make you a well-informed man. Fifteen minutes a day given to any Christian work will make you a power in the kingdom of God.

"BE YE PERFECT."

This is the command of Christ, and it is as binding as any in the Decalogue. To be sure,

it is a command in the future tense (and therefore cannot be translated into English, which has no form of the imperative), but, nevertheless, we cannot keep it unless we struggle toward perfection at once and all the time.

Therefore this year we have a tremendous task before us, namely, to reach perfection just so far as possible; and no one knows how far that is. Do not admit, even to yourself, that it is impossible to reach it.

A SCHEDULE.

It will help you very much to make this new year what it should be if you will lay out a sort of progress programme. Write a list of the improvements you mean to make in your character and your actions. Let the list include the achievements you hope to accomplish by the end of the year. Do not make a list so long as to be forbidding and even impossible, but keep it within the bounds of probability. Consider carefully every item of the list before you put it down, and add it only with determination and after prayer. Then go over this list daily; and it would be well to note daily by some kind of symbols what progress you are making in each particular. An "E" under the date may mean "excellent"; an "F," "fair"; a "P," "poor"; an "S," "standstill"; a "B," "backward." And may you have nothing but "E's" to record!

OUR BIBLE PASSAGE.

V. 15: The cloud covered the tabernacle. God no longer gives us an outward symbol of his presence, because he has once for all given us the only outward token needed, the life of Christ in the flesh.

V. 17: There Israel encamped. The Hebrews' home through those forty years in the desert was wherever God was. That is still the Christian's home.

V. 18: At the commandment of the Lord Israel journeyed. If we wait for God's command before we make our moves in life,—to another situation, another town, or even another house,—we may be more or less of travellers than we are now, but we shall certainly be more stable in our souls.

V. 22: Two days, or a month, or a year. Time is nothing to the obedient Christian. As with his Lord, a day with him is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. He regards not time, but obedience.

V. 23: They kept the charge of the Lord. We are careful about keeping our health, keeping our position, keeping our money; if we were as careful about keeping the Commandments we might forget all these other "keepings," and they would take care of themselves.

V. 10: They shall be a memorial. The beginnings of months and of years are really of no more importance than the middle or the end of them. Any day is a good day to begin to serve God. But the first day is a memorial, a jog of the memory, a spur to resolution; and the wise man will use it "for all it is worth."

Bible References.

A Sense of God's Presence.—Gen. 17: 1; 1 Kings 2: 4; 2 Kings 20: 3; Ps. 56: 13; 116: 9.
Walking with God.—Gen. 5: 22; 6: 9; 2 Kings 23: 3; Mic. 4: 5; Mal. 2: 6; Rev. 3: 4.
Paths for Our Feet.—Ps. 16: 11; 23: 3; 25: 10; Prov. 2: 9; 4: 11; Isa. 2: 3; Heb. 12: 13.
God's Promise.—Matt. 18: 20; 28: 20; Exod. 3: 12; Acts 2: 25, 26; Heb. 13: 6.—C. E. World.

U. B. C. E. Report.

New Dundee United Brethren Christian Endeavor society; Ontario conference; pastor, Rev. C. W. Backus; president, Mr. Gordan Hallman; vice president, Mr. Ivan Hilborn; secretary, Miss Bella Hall; treasurer, Miss Salome Biehn; active members, 23; associate members, 11; honorary members, 6; total membership, 40; average attendance, 30. Good work is being done by the society and every prospect of other helpers to be added to the society. BELLA HALL, Secretary.