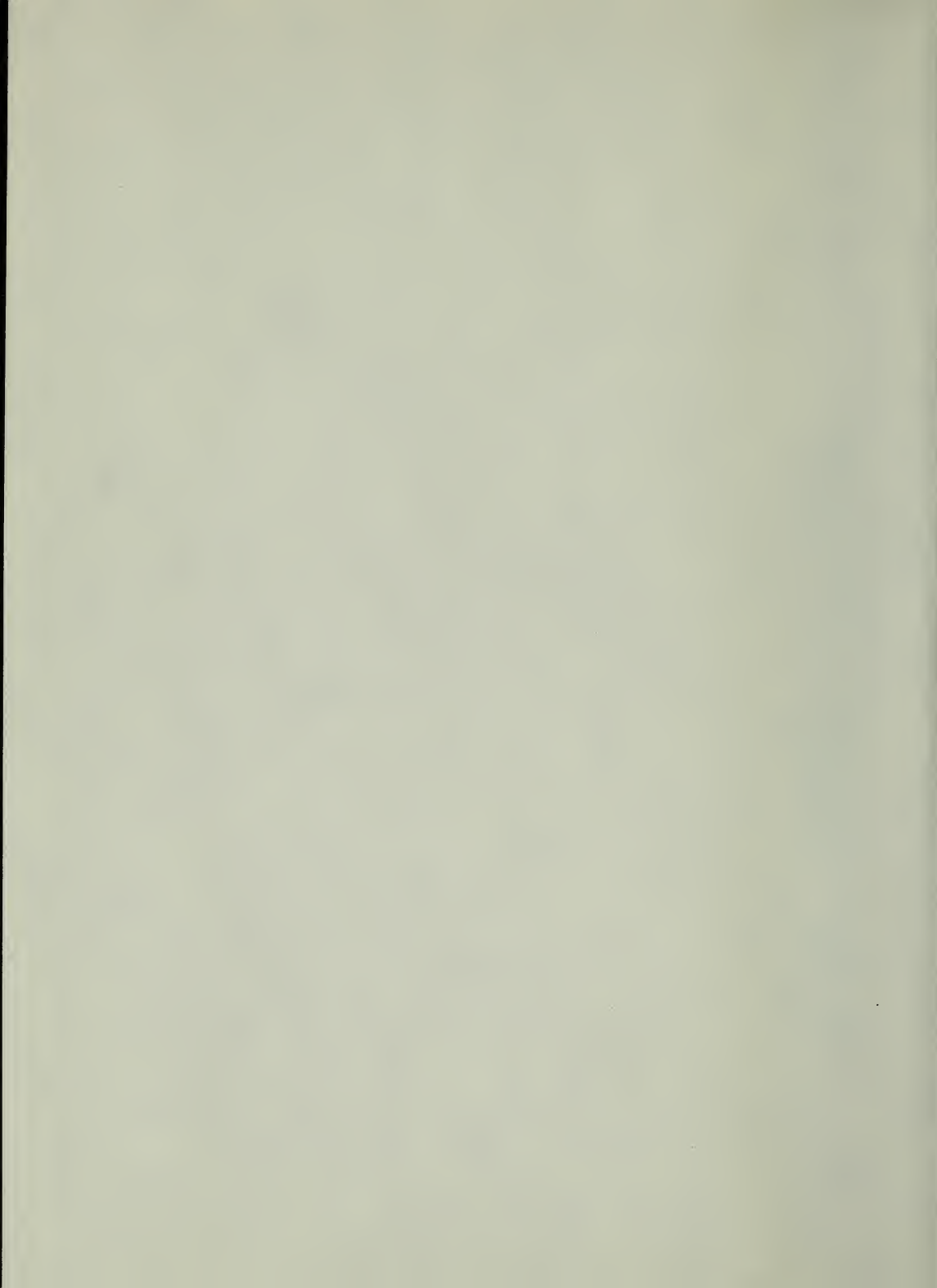


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THE
Endeavor Greeting

A Manual of Information and
Suggestion for New Members

By *Wells*
AMOS R. WELLS



United Society of Christian Endeavor
Boston and Chicago

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We Welcome You.

We rejoice that the Holy Spirit has led you to join our society.

We receive you most cordially into our fellowship, and ask you to think of us as your brothers and sisters in Christ's blessed service.

We trust that the society will gain much from you, and that you will gain much from the society. Let us be laborers together, — hand in hand and heart to heart.

That you may enter rapidly and fully into the spirit of the society, and into the performance of your duties and enjoyment of your privileges, we give you this book, trusting that you will read it carefully, and gain from the reading a clear view of Christian Endeavor.

Your friends,

The Members of the Society.



THE ENDEAVOR GREETING.

What the Christian Endeavor Society Is.



CHRISTIAN Endeavor has two aspects, and you will not gain the whole benefit from your membership in the society until you enter heartily into both phases of its work. It is a local organization; it is a world-wide movement.

It is a part of our church, under the control of its pastor and the other church officers, and has the upbuilding of the church for its one aim, as is declared by our motto, "For Christ and the Church." All authority over the society is vested in our church and denomination, and no outside body has a right to govern us.

But we are also in fellowship with the thousands upon thousands of Christian Endeavor


societies that exist in other denominations, that own our Christ as the divine Saviour of the world. We are also in touch, through Christian Endeavor, with the young people of all nations and races, for the movement has passed into every quarter of the globe.

You will not be a true Endeavorer, therefore, unless you are loyal, completely, to our church and pastor and denomination; and at the same time you will not enjoy the full blessedness of the society unless you have some share in our interdenominational fellowship as expressed in our city, county, and State unions, and unless you make some room in your knowledge and sympathy for our Christian Endeavor brothers and sisters in all parts of Asia, Africa, Europe, and the islands of the sea.

It is to this two-fold service and double privilege we welcome you.



What the Society Will Do for You.

T will strengthen your will, as you hold your life firmly to the pledge standard. You will learn from your failures where your life most needs strengthening, — and that is half the battle.

It will give you many opportunities of influencing others through testimony and example.

You will get practice in the great art of self-expression. You will become better able to obey that sensible command, “Let the redeemed of the Lord *say so.*”

The Bible-study, the daily prayer, required by the pledge, will draw you nearer to Christ, and greatly enrich your life.

Your membership in the society will commit you more decidedly on the side of Christ, and make you more outspoken for Him.

In the society meetings and the socials you will increase the number of your acquaintances, and you will learn how pleasant it is for Christians to dwell together in unity.


This contact with so many different lives will widen your horizon. You will gain from others a new enthusiasm and many fresh ideas.

You will become familiar with the orderly and effective conduct of business.

As you enter heartily into the committee work, you will learn how to carry on all kinds of Christian work, and you will gradually become more efficient in this service, until you can graduate from the society into the full activities of the church. It is our prayer that you will attain this blessed goal.



What You Will Do for the Society.

OU will bring us, we hope, a new access of zeal, so that those of us who may have grown cold in the service may be quickened by your fresh enthusiasm.

You will bring us new ideas, novel methods of work. If you see a better way to do anything, don't hesitate to tell us about it.

You will bring us a new voice, which we hope will be heard at every meeting.


You have behind you your experience, of which we want the benefit,—whatever you have learned, through failure or through success, about the will of God.

You can help us by joining your prayers to ours, by taking thought for all details of the work, by contributing your share of the money for society enterprises and for missions, and by doing with your might whatever committee work falls to your lot.

We are sure that you have learned the truth of our Master's word, "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and that in joining our society you are as eager to assist our labors as to win the blessings the society has in store for you.



Make Yourself at Home.

 HIS is your society. Just as much yours as the president's. Just as much yours as the pastor's. We want you to take a personal pride in it, and to have a feeling of personal possession. You have read the story of the street urchin who gave five cents to a certain mission, and who was seen not long after, dressed in his best, smartly stepping up to the door of the mission "to see what they were doing with his money." We want you to have just such a feeling of ownership in this society; and you will have it if you put something into it,—some time, some thought, some careful planning. You will be at home in the meetings, if you take part in them with force and regularity. You will feel at home in the socials, if you try to make some one else feel at home there. As you give yourself to our society, it will become truly yours.

Don't Wait to Be Told.



OUR society lacks original members. We hope you will be one of them. Members that move without prodding. Members that have their own ideas, and are not afraid to express them. Members that are not all the time asking to be excused. Members that actually hunt around for work to do. Automobile members.

Will you not be one of that kind?



Prepare for the Meetings.



DON'T put it off. Good thoughts never come "at the last moment."

Have a prayer-meeting note-book, putting at the head of the blank pages the topics for several weeks to come, and writing under each the thoughts that occur to you, or the suitable quotations and anecdotes you come across in your read-

ing. You will be astonished to see how many fish run into your net — when once it is spread.

Read the daily readings. One of them will surely give you a hint.

Ask yourself some question on the topic, and then answer it. That answer will be your speech.

Consider whether you have ever had any experience bearing on the subject of the meeting. If so, give it. Life is sure to influence life.

Keep a collection of scraps, in envelopes labelled with general topics, such as "Faith," "Courage," "Missions," "Temperance," "The Bible," "Prayer." These will be a rich reservoir.

Talk with your Christian friends about the topic. Every such conversation will set your brain to working.

Pray to God, and ask Him to give you a message. He will.

Consider whether the topic might not be illustrated by some recent event. That will always be helpful.

Do you not know some passage in a book — some paragraph, some poem — that bears on the subject of the evening?

Read the comments on the Christian Endeavor topics published in the denominational and Christian Endeavor papers. Expand some idea you find there.

Try to put in practice the truth of the lesson, and tell the society the result.

Now one of these ways will work and now another, but some of them will always give you something to say that is well worth saying.



Taking Part in the Meeting.

NEVER take part merely by calling for the singing of some hymn. If you really wish to do this, give some value to it by adding a few words, telling why you want that hymn sung — what feeling of yours it expresses, what experience it voices, or how you think it bears on the subject of the meeting.

The same remark applies to Bible verses. Commit to memory what verses you give, thus storing your mind with rich treasures, and always

add some sentence, however short, which will make of the verse a personal testimony. In that way, going from your life, it will reach other lives.

Write out, if you wish, what you are going to say in the meeting. It is always best to do this, no matter how fluent you are, because thus you give point and pith to your testimony. Then you will do well to *burn up* what you have written, and trust to your memory.

Don't worry about words and forms of expression. Don't mind it if you do stammer and hesitate. It is the breaking voice that breaks hard hearts. "Don't be afraid to break down for Christ."

If you are timid, it will help you to resolve the society into its elements. There is Mary Brown. You are not afraid of her. And George Culver. You are not afraid of him. And so on. Now since you are not afraid of any of them separately, why should you be afraid of them collectively?

Your fault may be that of speaking too long. Remember that our pledge calls upon each of us to take some part in the meeting, and if you oc-

cupy more than your share of the time, you are keeping some one else from keeping the pledge. Note how many are present, subtract the leader's introduction from the hour, and see how many minutes remain for each member, on the average. Govern yourself accordingly.

In no way, probably, can you help the meeting more than by leading the society in prayer. Make up your mind that you will attain this high ability and become master of this noble Christian service. Always join in the sentence prayers. Commit to memory the Bible prayers, especially the prayer Psalms. Often read the devotional books that are in the form of prayers, like the "Book of Common Prayer," and Taylor's "Holy Living and Dying." Offer short and simple prayers in public, and pray much in private, and you will soon be able to carry the society with you, up to the foot of the throne.

Throw your whole soul into whatever you say in the meeting. Ten words spoken with ringing voice and flashing eye are worth ten thousand spoken listlessly.


Don't be afraid to use the voice God has given

you. Remember that you are speaking in order to be heard, and pitch your voice so that those most distant from you can hear you.

If you wish to gain efficiency in speech, *rise* in giving your testimony or in praying. It is the universal assertion of those that have tried it that in this way less embarrassment is felt, and certainly what is said when standing is better heard and is more impressive.

You are responsible in part for the "spirit of the meeting." It depends partly on your earnest attention. It depends on your thoughtful, eager face. It depends on your hearty singing. It depends on your prayers uttered in secret for the success of the meeting. Any meeting, no matter how bright and wise the words spoken, may be utterly spoiled by a group of tittering simpletons whose whispering and silly pranks prevent them from gaining any good, and destroy the enjoyment of all around. Where two or three are gathered together in His name, there Christ is in the midst of them. We count on you to help in making our meetings worthy of that invisible Presence.

When You Lead the Meeting.

N the first place, please don't say, "I really cannot lead the meeting." Ask yourself, rather, "Is this something Christ would like to have me do?" And if you decide that it is, be sure that Christ will be the real leader of that meeting, and you certainly need not fear.

When you lead, prepare carefully. The United Society of Christian Endeavor sells for a few cents a variety of most useful helps for leaders.

I don't mean: "Prepare a long opening talk." Make your opening talk no longer than your average testimony in the meetings. More meetings are spoiled by too long openings than by anything else.

Your chief work as leader is to devise ways of getting the Endeavorers to take part. Be a leader in truth as well as name. Sentence prayers, silent prayers, question-boxes, answer-boxes, questions on the topic distributed among the inexperienced, quotations to be commented

upon, hymns to be started impromptu, Bible passages to be read in concert—there are a myriad ways in which you can “stir up” your meeting and give it that “snap,” that freshness and force, which do so much to vivify any subject.

Have a programme, and a written one; but don't hold to it slavishly.

It is far better to speak your opening remarks, even if they must be very brief, than to read them. “Talk it out” as if you meant it, and you will influence others and give a warmth to the meeting such as the most eloquent essay could not give.

Whatever you can do during the week before the meeting to spur on the thoughtless and guide the inexperienced, will greatly contribute to the success of your meeting. It will be more of a triumph to lead the meeting in which John Stevens led in prayer for the first time, though the meeting is filled with pauses, than to preside over the most cultured assembly—without John Stevens.

Get into your plans for your meeting one new idea, some plan never before tried in your society,

or seldom tried. One such plan will be enough to enliven the entire evening. For example, have you ever tried reading a hymn in concert before you sing it?

Especially, look out for the opening of the meeting, and keep it away from the stereotyped forms; and look out for the close of the meeting, that it is closed on time and with an earnest and reverent spirit.

Few privileges given to the Christian are greater than this of conducting religious meetings. It is a blessed opportunity for doing good. We hope that you will avail yourself of it whenever you are appointed to the post.



The Singing, and Your Part in It.

WE urge you to consider the singing in our prayer meetings as a regular part of the worship. Sing heartily, "as unto the Lord." Don't take a time of your own, but keep with the organ. As you sing, have regard to the thought of the hymn, and don't sing "Nearer, my God, to Thee" as if it were "Onward, Christian Soldiers." Fine, enthusiastic singing may be as genuine a help to your fellow Endeavorers as anything you can say in your testimony; remember that. The clause in the pledge which promises to "take some part, aside from singing," is not intended to minimize that portion of the worship. You will find this part of our meeting one of the most blessed of all, if you "sing with grace in your heart to the Lord."



How You Can Help the Meetings in General.



ASIDE from your "taking part" in the meeting, there are many little things you can do for it.

You can call for sentence prayers at a suitable time, saying, "Will not many follow me in sentence prayers?" and then giving one yourself.

You can start a hymn without calling the number. This is always a stimulus to the meeting.

You can add a word now and then to some testimony that has been given — some experience of yours that corroborates it, some fresh illustration, or some approving comment. This, of course, should be done sparingly, and with due regard to the time at the disposal of members, but it may be made a great encouragement to beginners in the prayer meetings.

You can make motions promptly when they are needed in the business meetings.

You can listen earnestly and prayerfully.

You can sit in the front seats.

You can be there on time.

You can fill the first pause with your testimony.

You can be the first to respond to any request from the leader.



Our Crowning Meeting.



THE purpose of the monthly consecration meeting is to strengthen your Christian zeal, to confirm your determination, to remind you of the vows you have taken, to praise God for His guidance during the past month, and to make new resolutions for the month to come.

Don't say at that meeting, "I want to re-consecrate myself"; you have consecrated yourself once for all, if you have ever consecrated yourself at all. Don't use *any* stock phrase. Speak very simply, and right out of your heart's needs and experiences.

Tell of some joy the past month has brought you. Express some purpose for the coming month. Offer some simple prayer. Repeat some truth that has lately become precious to you. Don't "make a speech"; that would be

foreign to the spirit of the meeting. It is an "experience meeting," as it was originally called. Its purpose is to get closer to Christ, to obtain fresh zeal in His blessed service.

Simply to answer, "Present," to your name at the roll-call, is, therefore, no adequate response. Neither is the announcement of a hymn, unless by some added words you make that your personal testimony. Not even a Bible verse meets the idea of the meeting, unless by some personal word you make it your own.

If you are compelled to be absent from the consecration meeting, you are to send "at least a verse of Scripture" to be read in response to your name. But don't be satisfied with that "at least." Often send more, — some warm message fresh from your heart.


This meeting is rightly taken as a test of earnestness, and if any one is absent from it for three consecutive months without excuse, the lookout committee has a perfect right quietly to drop his name from the roll. Such a person has broken a solemn pledge, made not to us, but to Christ: "I promise *Him*."

If You Are Away from the Society.

WE hope that when you are away on a vacation or a visit you will consider that one of the things Christ would like to have you do is to transfer your pledge, for the time being, to the nearest Christian Endeavor society. Join in their meeting as conscientiously as if their society were your own. You cannot imagine how much good may be done by a fresh voice thus introduced, while the example of your evident zeal for Christian Endeavor and faithfulness to your pledge will be a great stimulus to all the members of that society.

At the same time we hope that while you are away you will take occasion to send a message once in a while to your own society. Tell us of the new Endeavor friends you have met, of any new methods of work you have come across, of anything that will quicken our society life and increase our faith. Thus during your absence you will be twice an Endeavorer, instead of being, as so many are, no Endeavorer at all.

When You Are on a Committee.

ON'T say, "I have no time to serve on a committee." This committee work is the manual training-school of the church. If you expect to take time to do "the Father's business," you ought to take time to learn how to do it.

Do not say, either, "I will serve on a committee, but it must be the social committee" — or whatever your preference is. Don't have any preference. "I will go where you want me to go, dear Lord."

Learn what the work of your committee is. Read the brief description of it in our society constitution. Obtain from the United Society of Christian Endeavor some of their inexpensive pamphlets with abundant helps for the work of your special committee, whatever it is. Keep your eye on *The Christian Endeavor World* for accounts of the new committee plans that our bright workers are all the time contriving.

Attend the committee meetings regularly ; con-

sider them always a "previous engagement," if other demands upon your time interfere. It is God's time, and cannot be better used than in His service.

Get to the committee meeting on time. Your absence will make the meeting start off under a cloud, and when at last you come you will render it necessary for everything that has been done to be repeated in your hearing. What a clog you have made of yourself!

And when you go, go with the determination to stay until the meeting is comfortably completed. We are all familiar with the committeeman who goes bustling in and announces, "Now I have to go at eight o'clock, so let's hurry up and get it done with." No wise plans can be formed with such impatient, grudging attendance.

At the committee meeting don't be so very modest that you let the others make all the suggestions; that is not being modest, it is only being stupid. Do your share of the thinking; propose your share of the plans; and don't mind if they are voted down.

When matters are ready to come to a head,

be ready to make a motion. Many committee meetings flash in the pan just because no one has the wise gift of motion-making.

Then do your full share of the work laid out by the committee, and don't be afraid of doing more than your full share. Set apart a regular time for committee work. Pray over it, and throw your whole heart into it.

For whatever is accomplished, give credit to the committee as a whole. Seek to establish an *esprit de corps*.

And don't allow yourself to forget what committee work signifies, and the high ends it has in view. You are to be hands and feet, eyes and ears, for your Lord, who ascended to heaven in order that the church might become His body. Let Him not be ashamed of the work you do as His representative.



When You Are Chairman of a Committee.

MMUCH of what has just been said will apply still more to this office. Especially will it be necessary for you to inform yourself regarding the best committee plans by means of the literature of the United Society of Christian Endeavor. Send for the price list, and notice especially the "Worker's Library." If your local union holds committee conferences (as it easily might, and as it should), attend them regularly and exchange plans with other chairmen.

Remember that it is your duty not to do the work of the committee, but to see that it is done. The chairman that "has to do it all himself" is an absolute failure as a chairman.

The first essential is regular committee meetings. Always have them on the same week day, and always meet at the same place. This is an important aid to memory. Let the place be your own house, if that is not very inconvenient. Weekly meetings may be necessary in getting

the work started at the beginning of the year. Don't be afraid, at any time, to meet as often as is necessary for the good of the work.

Hold your committee meetings on a week-day evening, if possible. Hurried gatherings after the Christian Endeavor meeting or the church prayer meeting are always unsatisfactory.

Begin promptly at the time appointed, though only one other member of the committee is present. Open the meeting with prayer for God's guidance in it, and close the meeting with prayer for God's blessing in the work that is to come. Let one of these prayers be by yourself, and one by a committeeman.

Preside with decision. Put motions in a swift and businesslike way. Hold the committee to the point, and tactfully check aimless discussions. Slovenly chairmen are responsible for a vast waste of time.

Don't call a committee meeting without having definite plans to propose, or at least a clear idea of the matters to be discussed. Set them before the committee at once in as few words as possible, and "get right down to business."

Be tenacious in holding on to these plans. Allow no resolution of the committee to remain unexecuted. Bring it up at every meeting until the thing is done.

Go to your pastor and ask him what he would like to have your committee do. Address the same inquiry to your Sunday-school superintendent, your president, the superintendent of the Junior society.

Co-operate with all the other chairmen, and never push your work without courteous regard for others. To this end be zealous in your attendance on the executive committee meetings. This is the co-ordinating body of the society.

Appoint a committee secretary, who will record everything done and the substance of all discussions. Always have these records read at the opening of the committee meeting.

It is your business to make the report of the committee at the regular business meeting of the society, or else to delegate some committeeman to do it. The report should always be in writing, and after it is read, it should be handed to the secretary for preservation. All such re-

ports should contain three items: what the committee has done; what the committee proposes to do; and what help the committee wants from the society.



Help the Other Committees.

WE hope that you will not be a "one-committee member." That is, we trust that your energies will not be exhausted by the little work required from the special committee upon which you are placed, but that you will have an eye to the helping of all committees. For instance, whether you are on the lookout committee or not, be on the lookout for possible new members, and report them to the lookout committee, leaving them to do the rest. Though you may not be on the social committee, if you hear of a good new game, "just the thing" for your socials, let the social committee have the benefit of your find. We are to be one brotherhood in this society, remember, and each is to work for all.

A Word about the Socials.

WE want you to attend them. We count them an essential part of our society work. They should be genuine "services" of the Master.

You will get good from the socials, not as you go to them for a good time, but as you go to make some one else have a good time.

Don't attach yourself to some bosom friend for the evening, but try to break up cliques, and transplant the wall-flowers into the midst of things.

Be ready to enter heartily into all the games and other amusements. And don't be so modest as to imagine you cannot furnish part of the entertainment yourself.

Our socials are "social — to save." We are especially anxious to make them the means of drawing some that do not know Christ into the "inner circle" of His friends. Will you not aid us in this endeavor?

The Society Finances.



CHRISTIAN Endeavor societies have very few expenses. Our topic cards cost money, and occasionally some committee needs a little money to do its work most effectively, but in general the demands upon the society treasury from the society itself are very few. We know that you will be glad to do your share, and more than your share in this direction.


But for another purpose the society wants money, and wants all of it that can be obtained, — for the missions and other enterprises of our church and denomination. The church has never before enjoyed so many opportunities as the present affords. Christians may freely send missionaries over the world. Many heathen lands are hungry for the Word of Life. Everywhere there are open doors and open hearts, and thousands of missionaries are trained and waiting to be sent. Never before was the missionary dollar so needed.

Christian Endeavor hopes to raise up a body

of liberal givers, — givers that do not wait to be asked, but pass the contribution box to themselves; Christians that look forward to the missionary collection with great joy. Missionary Sunday should be both a holy day and a holiday to them. So it will be, when the grace of God gets into all our pocketbooks.



Keep Posted.


OU will wish to know about the history of the Christian Endeavor Society, with which you have connected yourself, and we refer you to the "Short History of Christian Endeavor," sold by the United Society of Christian Endeavor, Tremont Temple, Boston, for five cents. It describes the progress of the movement in all lands and under all its many aspects. It is a wonderful story.

You will wish also to know what is going on to-day in Christian Endeavor circles. You will want to be in touch with the leaders of the

movement in all denominations. You will wish to know what your Endeavor brothers and sisters are doing in Africa, Asia, Europe, at the ends of the earth. You will find all this in the weekly issues of our international organ, *The Christian Endeavor World*. It is a high-class illustrated paper, employing as writers the leaders of Christian thought in both hemispheres, and it costs only one dollar a year. If you will send a postal-card request to "The Christian Endeavor World, Tremont Temple, Boston," you will promptly receive a sample copy. In its pages you will find all kinds of helps for committee work, while the prayer-meeting helps contributed by the great writers of all denominations are marvels in their extent and real helpfulness.



When Elected to Office.

F the nominating committee proposes your name for any office, even for president, — don't decline! If so many of your fellow Endeavorers think you fitted to the post, their judgment is more likely to be right than yours. Treat the call as a sacred one, a call to religious service. Don't allow sloth, or fear of men, or the claims of worldly interests, to draw you away from this duty. It often happens that our Christian Endeavor work suffers just because the natural leaders are too lazy, or too timid, or too much engrossed in secular affairs, to take the leadership for which God fitted them. Do not place yourself in their number.

And, having accepted the post, throw your whole soul into the work. Obtain the best printed helps, relying on the Holy Spirit for guidance, and you will be able to guide the society into ways whose blessedness and fruitfulness you will never know till the Judgment Day.

What Is Union Work?

WE urge you to attend the meetings of our local union, and to avail yourself of the privilege, whenever possible, of attendance at the conventions of our State union, and at the international gatherings. Christian Endeavor is an interdenominational movement as well as a local organization. One of its glorious aims is to draw close together all that love our Saviour. We are none the less true to our denominations because of this wider fellowship.

In this union work, you gain the inspiration that comes from the knowledge of the great movement of which you form a part. You catch the onrush of the mighty army. There is a great inspiration in numbers.

You also get from these union meetings a knowledge of other bodies of believers and new respect for them, and in just that proportion you feel new pride in the one kingdom of our Lord of which all His churches are parts.

These union meetings are exchanges in which

good methods are passed from one to another, and no Endeavorer can afford to miss this contact with the most skilled and experienced workers.



Bible - Reading Every Day.

ILLUMINATE this, as every, portion of the pledge, by that inclusive promise to "strive to do whatever Christ would like to have" you do. Certainly He would want you to read, as a general thing, more than a verse or two a day, and certainly He would want you to make your Bible-reading count for something, fixing it in your mind by study and meditation.

It is a good plan to read the Bible straight through, marking those portions which you find most helpful, and returning to them again and again until you have become familiar with them. Some plan of Bible-marking is a great aid in gaining an acquaintance with the Book of Books. Use a good commentary, and don't be afraid of a little study, and you will find that some of the

books of the Bible that seem most obscure have grown to be your delight.


Try the plan of reading whole books of the Bible at a sitting; it will be no more than you do for other books. Always make it your rule to read on and on until you have received a blessing from the Scripture—it may be within a few verses, it may be many chapters.

Give your Bible-reading the cream of the day, the early morning. Heart and brain should be at their best for this supreme work of the day.

Early in the week read the Bible passage for the next Christian Endeavor meeting, and follow that with the “daily readings.” Thus you will often obtain just the thought that will be most helpful in the meeting.



Praying Every Day.

F course the hasty mumbling of the Lord's Prayer at night, with your brain half asleep, is a technical observance of this part of the pledge, but it is a violation of its spirit. If you are "trusting in the Lord Jesus Christ for strength," as in the first clause of the pledge you say you are, then you know where you can get it, and you know that time is not lost that is spent in communion with God. The Quiet Hour is the most fruitful hour of the day.

We cannot here give a treatise on prayer. Let us refer you to Andrew Murray's "With Christ in the School of Prayer," to Professor Phelps's "The Still Hour," and to the other works of Andrew Murray and those of Rev. F. B. Meyer, and to Doctor Clark's devotional books published by the United Society of Christian Endeavor.

One suggestion, however, we wish to make: Begin your season of communion with God by trying to realize His actual presence with you, which is just as real as it was when He walked the

shores of Galilee. Then go on to a period of thanksgiving, recalling every blessing God has bestowed upon you within the last twenty-four hours. Then, and not till then, begin your petitions, and see that the greater part of them is for others rather than yourself.



Supporting the Church.



YOU have promised to “support your own church in every way.” What are those ways?

The most obvious one is by becoming a church-member, if you are not one already. Hundreds of thousands have been led into the church of Christ through this Christian Endeavor pledge of ours. You remember Christ’s promise to those that confess Him before men, and His warning to those that do not so confess Him. Is not joining the church one of the things “He would like to have you do”?

Supporting the church means regular attendance


on all its services, unless you have an excuse Christ would receive. The church prayer meeting is to be your prayer meeting just as much as the Endeavor meeting — and more.

Supporting the church means also taking whatever part in church activities you fittingly can. It means speaking at the church prayer meeting whenever opportunity is given. It means regular attendance at the Sunday school. It means paying your share toward the church expenses. It means joining in the church missionary collections. It means studying the doctrines and the history and the government of the church. It means “talking up” the pastor, and getting new members for the congregation.

In short, the Christian Endeavor Society is a loyal portion of the church, and has for its chief aim to train up faithful and enthusiastic church-members. You will be one of them, we are confident.



Your Excuses.


N the pledge, you promise to do certain things provided you have no excuse that would be acceptable, you think, to Christ, — to whom, and not to us, you have made the pledge. We urge you to hold before you at all times this high standard. If you are tempted to read some story and let your Bible-reading go, ask yourself whether that is an excuse Christ would accept. If you hesitate about taking part in the prayer meeting because what you have to say will not sound as fine as what James Black has just said, ask yourself what Christ would think of such an excuse. If you remain away from the consecration meeting because you had a slight headache, though within a week you went to a party bearing with you a far worse headache, don't forget to determine Christ's probable opinion of that excuse. If you refuse to lead a meeting because you "have no time," stop and think what Christ, who gave you all your time, would think of that excuse. If you are minded to omit

your prayers at night because you are so sleepy, bethink yourself that you have been sitting up late to play halma, and ask yourself whether Christ would balance halma off against prayers.

There *are* sensible excuses, but they are not so plentiful as our inclinations sometimes lead us to imagine. *We* are not going to set ourselves up as judges of your excuses, and we shall be glad to believe at all times, whenever you may fail to perform any Christian Endeavor duty, that you have an excuse that you can take with perfect confidence to your Lord and Master.



The Goal of It All.

UR Christian Endeavor work does not end with itself. If it did, there would be little reason for it. In all your activities within this society we want you to keep constantly before you the time when you will leave this society. We count our society a success, not in proportion as it retains its members,

but as it sends them out into the full church work, completely equipped for it.

To that end, learn to do everything you can that will be of use later. Learn to pray in public, to testify with effectiveness, to lead the unconverted to Christ. Study your Bible, and become master of its treasures. Become filled with the Spirit in your hours of private devotions. Get skilled in all kinds of committee work, in leading meetings, in conducting socials, in guiding business meetings, in the raising of money for religious purposes. There is no ability which our society can develop that will not become useful in the great work to which you will graduate.



And How May God Bless You.

May your determination be unwavering.

May your trust be confident.

May your zeal be fervid.

May you never be satisfied with what you have achieved, but go on from hard things to harder things, for the glory of God.

May the fear of God be your constant stay from temptation.

May the knowledge of God be your guide through all perplexity.

May the love of God be your unfailing comfort and support.

Into the secret of His presence may you go farther day by day, until you come to know Him whom to know aright is life eternal.

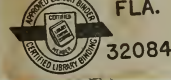
And at the close of all your Christian endeavors may He receive you to Himself.





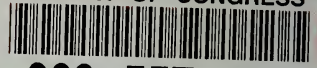
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