

World Wide Endeavor

THE STORY OF THE

Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor

FROM THE BEGINNING AND IN ALL LANDS

BY

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WITH WORDS OF GREETING BY

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W. S. REEVE PUBLISHING COMPANY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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MATTER OR THE PICTURES IN THIS VOLUME.

LAFAYETTE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER, D. D., PASTOR.

I AM delighted to hear, my dear Brother Clark, that you are preparing the history of the Christian Endeavor Society. The men who make history are the best men to write it. To you and to our friend, Sir George Williams, of London, God has vouchsafed the peculiar honor and privilege of founding great organizations, and also the joy of seeing them spread over the whole Christian world. Both go to the root of things—the salvation, education, and development of the young.

During the dozen years of my Brooklyn pastorate, before the inauguration of your first Christian Endeavor Society at Portland, I had been witnessing the immense power and indispensableness of a Young People's Association in my own church. It was and is just as important a part of the church's spiritual machinery as the Sabbath-school. Your Christian Endeavor societies occupy precisely that same place in every church that is wise enough to introduce them, and has grace enough to conduct them. A church that does not rear its youth for Jesus Christ, has no future in this world; it is dying at the top, and sapless at the roots. The Master has no place for such cumberers of His ground.

My chief solicitude for the Christian Endeavor societies is that they be kept strongly and tightly to their cardinal purpose, viz., the conversion and training of souls for the Master; aggressive work for Him can alone keep the organization sweet, hale, and spiritually athletic. The social must be only a road to the spiritual. All roads must lead to Christ. Then, we of the various denominations can go singing and shouting along the road, "One in our Master, and all we be brethren."

Your admirable movement has already survived the peril of being a "novelty." There is a cemetery for religious and benevolent enterprises just at that point where novelty dies out, and plenty of them have had Christian burial in that "Potter's field." By God's good guidance and rich blessing the Christian Endeavorers have left that fatal spot far behind, and are marching on two million strong. May your societies live on, even if you don't, to march into the millennial morning with colors flying and the dear name of the Crucified on every ensign.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Theodore L. Cuyler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.