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CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR COLUMN.

BY C. W. KELLEY.

Pres.—Mrs. M. R. Paradis.
Vice-Pres.—Miss Blanche Loughridge.
Sec'y.—Myrtle Chipman.
Treas.—Mary Belle Percupille.

"FOR CHRIST AND THE CHURCH."
On the 14th of May, 1888, the Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor was organized in the Presbyterian church. Its organization was the direct outgrowth of the Young Peoples' Prayer Meeting, which existed during the previous year, 1887, but which was not connected with the great Christian Endeavor movement.

The members of this society, wishing for greater opportunities of usefulness, and seeing the need of more systematic methods of work, felt that this could be accomplished, in a large measure, by adopting the constitution of the United Society of Christian Endeavor. Nor were they mistaken. Founded on the broad principles of interdenominational fellowship, for which Christian Endeavor stands, the society could not do



Dr. James H. Loughridge.

Dr. James Hervey Loughridge, of Scotch-Swedish descendants, was born on a farm in Greene Co., Pennsylvania, near Wheeling, Virginia, on December 27th, 1828, and at his death was 66 years, 7 months and 19 days old. He was next to the youngest of a family of three girls and four boys, and of these, three brothers survive him. He graduated from Jefferson College, at Washington, Pa., when about 18 years of age.

Shortly after leaving college he came west, and in the spring of 1852 came to Rensselaer, where he continued to reside ever since. He was married in 1862 to Candace Powers, to whom was born three children, two of whom, Dr. Victor E. and Miss Blanche Loughridge, survive him.

Dr. Loughridge was a great admirer of nature as exemplified in both the animal and vegetable kingdom, and he was recognized as an authority on any subject connected with these things. He was an affectionate husband, a kind and indulgent father, and a faithful Mason and Odd Fellow. Politically, Dr. Loughridge was always a Democrat of the stalwart, Gen. Jackson type. He has been a leader in the Democratic circle in this community for years. He stood loyally by the government in its struggle for existence as a surgeon in the 9th and 48th regiments of Indiana volunteers. His skill as a physician and surgeon was his prominent characteristic. As a citizen he was enterprising, progressive and free-handed, always favoring what he believed tended to the welfare and best interests of the community.

otherwise than prosper and be the means of doing great good.

To give in detail the various steps in the growth of the society during the seven years of its existence would be impossible here; but its general purpose, its work, and the results accomplished, we will find interesting and profitable.

Twenty-one charter members signed the constitution on the evening of May 14, 1888, and under its requirements three committees were appointed for the efficient carrying on of the work of the society. The Lookout committee having in charge the admission of new members, and the general welfare and advancement of the society; the Prayer Meeting and Social committee, together with the president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, constituted the working force of the organization.

Since that time the society has met weekly. And the great benefit derived from three weekly meetings cannot be estimated. The systematic Bible study which is thus afforded, the spirit of practical Christianity which

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WE INVITE INSPECTION.

FENDIC'S FAIR.

is fostered, the constant endeavor towards that which is true and good, and the meeting together of our young people thus in a common cause—the upbuilding of Christ's kingdom on earth—all have been the means of leading to a truer conception of living and right-doing.

Steadily, too, the society has grown. New members have been added, and increasing good accomplished. Since the meeting of twenty-one members in 1888, Christian Endeavor has reached much larger proportions both in our town and county. In 1892 a union was formed between the societies of the Presbyterian and Christian churches, with a total of about sixty members. The following year, 1893, the third annual convention of the Young Peoples' Society of Christian Endeavor of Lake, Porter, Newton, Jasper and Starke counties, was held at Rensselaer. A large number of delegates from each county was present, the entire enrollment being over 200. Two similar conventions have been held since—in '94 at Hammond, and in June of the present year at Goodland.

Our society now numbers between thirty-five and forty members. There have been added to the three original committees—the Lookout, Prayer Meeting and Social—a Temperance committee, a Literature committee, a Sunday-School committee, a Missionary committee and Music and Floral committees.

We have now, also, a Junior Christian Endeavor Society with about thirty members; another outgrowth of the first movement.

The Jasper County Union of Christian Endeavor now comprises nine societies—five Senior and four Junior, two Senior and two Junior societies at Rensselaer; two Senior and two Junior at Remington; and one Senior society in Barkley township. The entire membership is between 200 and 300.

And yet, compared with what may be accomplished, we are still at the first round of the ladder. We believe the time is now at hand for Christian Endeavor to wield a stronger influence than ever before, and for many, many more to enjoy the blessings which it affords. For not least among the good results attained, has been the personal benefit derived by every member of the society. This weekly meeting together of young people, striving to learn and follow the teachings of Christ, and thus

keeping uppermost their better and truer instincts, has done much to promote a broad feeling of Christian love and fellowship. The personal uplift to each one spiritually has widened into friendship and charity, one for another. "One is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren."

And it is this same feeling of brotherhood, that has made the Christian Endeavor Society such a powerful influence throughout the world. It is interesting to note the growth of the entire United Society in connection with our own. The first Christian Endeavor Society was organized in 1881 at Portland, Maine, with a membership of 48. In 1888, the year in which our own society started, and after an interval of only seven years, there were 4,879 societies, with a total membership of 310,000.

In 1890, there were 11,013 societies with 660,000 members. In 1892, 210,080 societies, with 1,370,000 members; in 1894, 33,730 societies, and 2,023,800 members. And for the present year, 1895, we have 41,229 societies, and a grand army of 2,473,740 Christian Endeavors!

Yes its growth has indeed been wonderful; but it is a wonderful cause. Christian Endeavor means first of all, endeavor for Christ; it means Christian friendship; it means brotherly love; it means good government and good citizenship; true manhood and womanhood. The young people of our land are rising in their might "for Christ and the Church." Nothing can advance us so much, not only in a spiritual sense, but morally and socially, as earnest, practical Christian Endeavors. May the young people of Rensselaer be in the foremost ranks of the onward movement.

JOHN R. VANNATTA,
DEALER IN

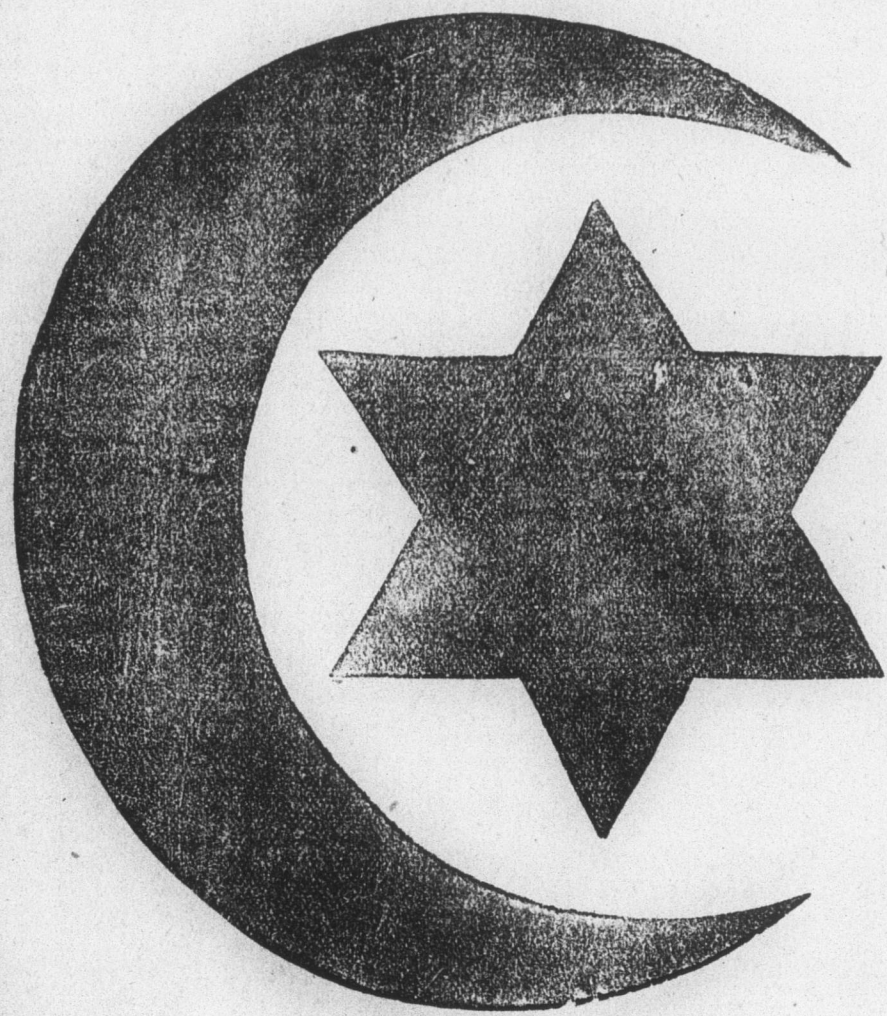
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