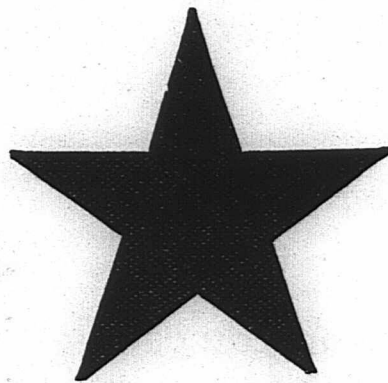
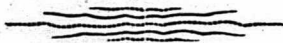


The Houghton Star



THE STUDENT VOLUNTEER CONVENTION.
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Do You Want the Best?



Call on us and you can get the best
at the price others will charge
for the "just as good."



Lynde Bros.,

Houghton, N. Y.

COUNTY PROHIBITION FOR NEW YORK.

Neil Dow Cranmer.

(Mr. Cranmer, '10, of Syracuse University, is State Secretary for New York State of the Intercollegiate Prohibition Association and was the delegate of that organization to the convention of which he writes. Mr. Cranmer is one of those whole souled, untiring, never surrendering fighters, who are bringing the final victory a good deal nearer.—Editor.)

The experience of age and the enthusiasm of youth joined hands at Albany on January 12th when delegates from eighteen temperance societies representing an approximate membership of 150,000 gathered for the Conference of the Allied Forces of New York State for Civic and Moral Betterment.

Among the organizations represented were The Intercollegiate Prohibition Association, The W. C. T. U., The Prohibition Party, Good Templars, Loyal Temperance Legion, Anti-Saloon League, Law and Order League, Secret Law and Order League, Reform Bureau, National Temperance Society, Baptist Temperance Society, Presbyterian Temperance Society, Seventh Day Adventist Temperance Society and the Young People's Prohibition League.

It was the unanimous decision of all the societies, with the one exception of the Anti-Saloon League, that a County-Unit Prohibition Bill should be introduced into the legislature. Doctor J. A. Patterson of the Anti-Saloon League, stated that, while his organization favored the principles of such a bill, it did not deem it advisable to introduce it at the present time, but preferred a City Option measure.

The proposed bill provides for the voting on the question of license or no-license in the state by counties. Should a county go "dry" it will remain "dry" unless the law is repealed. Should a county vote, "wet," however, the question can be voted on again in two years. Should a county vote "wet" but any towns or cities in the county vote "dry" those towns or cities remain dry. Hence everything is to be gained and nothing to be lost by the provisions of the bill.

On the surface these sections may seem unfair to the liquor interests, but such a law is in operation in a number of western states and has been declared constitutional by Supreme Courts on the ground that the traffic in alcoholic liquors for beverage purposes is illegal. The bill provides for the abolition of the manufacture as well as sale (except for industrial and medical purposes) in counties voting no-license.

Every month a thousand citizens of our state, men, women, and innocent children are crushed beneath the iron heel of the liquor monster which knows no pity or mercy, and is so strongly entrenched behind political machines, corrupt legislators, pliant courts and law-nullifying officials that at times it seems well nigh hopeless to try to conquer the giant. But the great God of Battles has never yet failed to support the warriors in a righteous cause, provided they stood true, and fought with all their soul and body and he will help us in this battle if we do our full duty as valiant soldiers and rely upon Him. We must win! We shall win!

THE ORATORICAL CONTEST.

LaVay Fancher.

It was on the evening of the twenty-second of January, 1910, that the Prohibition League of Houghton held its second annual oratorical contest. Although all members of the league are allowed to try for oratorical honors

only three members had prepared themselves for the combat.

Shortly before eight o'clock the Rev. Mr. Clow opened the program by prayer. The double quartette sang some stirring temperance songs. The presiding officer of the evening came forward and introduced the first speaker, Mr. Ray Sellman, of Michigan, who spoke from the subject, "Lessons From Yesterday." He used clear and forceful argument and showed by apt illustration what brave and noble men had accomplished in the past, showing that the need of temperance movement today was a man—a man who could lead on to victory. Mr. Theos Thompson of South Dakota followed, speaking on the subject, "Liberty and Union." Graphically he pictured the founding of our present Union. He clearly showed the necessity of driving from our country the licensed saloon if the Union was to be perpetuated. The last to take the floor was Mr. James Elliott of Vermont. His was an argumentative theme—"The Missing Clause." He forcefully brought home to his audience the misery and havoc wrought by drink, showing that the liquor traffic was a foe to the best interests of our citizens and our country and should therefore be restricted by our national constitution.

The orations were judged by two separate committees of three members each. The first committee judged the orations on composition and thought previous to the contest. The other committee graded the speakers on delivery. The averaging committee's report showed that the last speaker of the evening was entitled to the laurels

THE STUDENT VOLUNTEER CONVENTION.

In Convention Hall in the City of Rochester on December 29, convened the sixth international convention of the Student Volunteer Movement of United States and Canada. The convention was a great inspiration to all who attended. Surely no one who saw that vast audience of about four thousand people, hushed reverently in silent prayer, or listening attentively while someone told of the needs of the world, will ever cease to look back to that time as one of the great privileges of his or her life time. I believe that no one who attended the convention can ever look at the world in quite the same way as before, but must look at it with a broader vision and see more clearly the needs and hear more distinctly the cry of the millions in heathen darkness, whether he hears those cries or not.

At this great convention, according to official report, there were 3,624 delegates, of whom 2,678 were students, 329 professors and teachers, 165 returned missionaries, 2 delegates from England, 1 from Germany, Sec-

retaries of mission boards, etc. made up the rest of the number. There were 722 institutions represented, 49 states and provinces and 29 countries.

The watchword of the movement is "The Evangelization of the World in this Generation." The opinion of the speakers was that this watchword must be realized if the world is to be won for Christ. They emphasized the fact that it is easier now to win the people than ever before, that the missionary has opportunities now that he never had in the past, but if we do not recognize these opportunities and seize them within this generation, it will be too late. For the people are going to be civilized whether they are Christianized or not. If they get civilization without the gospel they become atheists and it is almost impossible to reach them.

Every morning and every evening sessions were held in the hall. John R. Mott, chairman of the executive committee, had charge. Mr. Mott impresses one as a man of earnestness and he has shown himself to be

a man of tireless energy in the work that he has undertaken. During the morning sessions short talks were given on a great variety of topics, among which might be mentioned: "Missionary Consciousness in the Individual Life," "Marks of a Missionary Whose Works Will Abide," "Requisites of a Success in Missionary Enterprises," "The Money Power Relative to the Kingdom." In the afternoon sectional conferences were held in the various churches. One afternoon these conferences were according to countries, as, Africa, India, China, Latin America. One afternoon they were by denominations and one by size of schools. The aim in these conferences was to get a closer view of the work and more details than could be given in the sessions in the hall where general topics were taken up.

In the evening the sessions were usually divided between two speakers. In these sessions each of the great mission fields of the world was represented. George Sherwood Eddy, who has spent many years in India, spoke in behalf of the natives of that country. Dr. Samuel Zwemer spoke on the conditions in the Near East: Turkey, Persia and Arabia. Bishop Hartzell from Africa spoke on the great needs and opportunities on that continent. Rev. Robert E. Sheer made an appeal for help for our nearest neighbors in Latin-America. The opinion of all was that the need was very urgent and that the church was facing a serious crisis in each of these countries. They declared that the church of the Living God must accept the challenge that these lands are offering and must go forth to those who are dying without the gospel and carry to them the tidings of Him who is mighty to save. There were many other speakers worthy of mention, but I will name only three: On Sunday morning Bishop McDowell and E. I. Bosworth, Dean of Oberlin College, spoke, the former on the subject, "The Multiplying Power of a Life of Obedience to God;" the latter on, "The Discovery of God." Perhaps the most noted speaker at the convention was the Hon. James Bryce, English Ambassador to the United States. The last session of the convention was very interesting. A short memorial service was held in honor of those who had died within the last four years. There were sixty-one of these. Mr. Mott read a number of telegrams and cablegrams that came to the convention from all parts of the world. Mr. Eddy gave a short address on the visions we should get from the convention: the vision of a deeper life, of a needy world, and of the Christ. Then the volunteers who expected to sail this year, ninety-two in number, told to what countries they expected to go and each gave one reason for going. There was a spirit of unity throughout the entire convention. The great emphasis was placed, not on the need of money, but on the need of consecrated men and women who would go to the front, the need of men and women of genuine christian character who have surrendered themselves wholly to Jesus Christ. As one of the speakers said, "We have to begin at the limit of our limitation and take one man's or woman's life to the Father."

MISSIONS AND MISSIONARIES.

Lura Miner.

The Young People's Foreign Missionary Society has given some very interesting as well as instructive programs this year. From the student body three delegates, Professor Luckey, Miss Miriam Day and Mr. Maurice

Gibbs, were sent to the Missionary Convention held at Rochester during the Holidays. These delegates returned filled with missionary enthusiasm. One Sunday evening they gave a report of what they heard at that convention from some of the great missionaries of the world. This report was very interesting and proved to be a benefit to all who heard it. Many left the church that night with more true missionary zeal than when they entered. For as the great need was shown and the wonderful crisis that are upon us were set forth and the need of consecrated lives was seen, one could not but ask himself, "Am I doing my part?"

The work of the Mission Study Class is progressing under the leadership of Mr. Harold Hester. The book, "Call, Qualifications and Preparations of Missionary Candidates," which was chosen for study this year is proving very helpful and interesting. In connection with this work, the study of the missionary work in different countries is taken up. At the last meeting the two members of the class who attended the Missionary Convention told us some of the excellent things that they heard there.

THE NEOSOPHIC SOCIETY.

Chas. F. Pearce.

Society work has been somewhat broken up during the last semester by revival meetings and lectures. Consequently Mr. Floyd Hester's duties as President and Miss Abbie Churchill's as Secretary have been light, they having served in only five meetings. Nevertheless they have performed their duties well and no doubt received much good from it.

Debates have been much in evidence on the programs which have usually been miscellaneous in character. At our last meeting the following officers were elected. President, C. A. Hendrics; Secretary, Ray Hazlett; Treasurer, Arthur Karker. These are all old students and will of course put lots of life into their new duties.

Perhaps the Society interest has been a little low on account of the irregularity of the meetings, but it will now regain its former vigor and continue as usual.

We have added quite a few new members since the beginning of the last semester. We hope to help these people as much as possible and get them into the work as soon as we can.

A WORD TO THE BRAIN WORKER.

Theos Thompson.

Why is it that thousands of brain workers wreck their nervous systems, become dyspeptics and even go insane? Why? For no other reason than that their vital organs are too weak to nourish their brains. They attempt with a one-horse power boiler to furnish enough steam for a twenty-five horse power locomotive. They do it, but the boiler is soon burned out under the forced draught. They over-work, weaken and often wreck their nervous system, their heart, their lungs, their stomach and all the other delicate parts that help to make the human locomotive. Why is this? It is because they do not take proper care of the boiler. How should they care for the boiler? They should breathe pure air; breathe it correctly and in sufficient quantities. They should eat pure food; eat it properly and enough of it. Exercise, yes, but I do not mean simply to contract the biceps and other external muscles. But I do mean the internal muscles—the mus-

cles that directly reach the vital parts brain, the stomach and all the vital parts where it is needed. You will shrewd in many ways, is extremely then loose that tired feeling and your foolish in others. When advised to nerves will vibrate with renewed strength. The largest and finest devote a certain amount of time to locomotive in the world is of no more exercise, he claims to be too busy. value than a pile of scrap iron if But let me ask, can you perform your the boiler cannot furnish power to work properly when suffering from propel it. Your lungs are the boiler indigestion, nervousness and a dozen and your blood the steam of your other complaints because of that forced human locomotive. Hence let us draught? No matter what your ailment, strike at the foundation. Be develop our lungs and all our vital sensible. Find the cause, then the organs. Fellow-brain worker, let us cure. Breathe more of nature's pure leave those books for a good hour air that you may have either more each day and get out and inhale large or richer blood. Compel your blood quantities of Nature's all necessary to circulate through the lungs, the tonic—air.

THE PHILOMATHEAN SOCIETY.

Miriam Day.

The society did not meet the last few weeks before the Holidays on account of the revival meetings but the meetings have been held regularly since the Holidays. As a rule the programs have been good. One program was a study of the English poets Pope and Wordsworth. It consisted of character sketches of the two men, readings from their works and a lecture by Professor N. R. Smith, "A Contrast Between the Age of Pope and Age of Wordsworth." The main features of the last program was a debate on the question, "Resolved, That there should be an amendment to the constitution giving the Federal Government complete control of divorce." Mr. Ostlund, Miss Hubbard and Mr. S. W. Wright took the affirmative; Mr. H. L. Fancher, Miss Freda Greenberg and Professor Greenberg the negative. The debate was interesting and resulted in a victory for the affirmative. We are starting out on a new year and a new semester. At the last closed meeting our new officers were elected, Mr. C. M. Dudley, senior in college, was elected president. Shall we not try to make our society mean more this semester than it has meant during the one just past? We can do this by regular attendance, good attention and by each one who has any part on the program doing his best to make that part interesting and instructive.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Although it is stated in every issue of the "Star" that the paper will be discontinued at the expiration of subscription, we are sending this issue to all those subscribers whose subscriptions ended with the January number. The reason for this is that the January issue was late in appearing and we did not feel that ample time was given between the two issues for all to renew. We hope that this gentle reminder will prompt you to act at once in sending us your renewal.

Ray A. Sellman.

The Houghton Star. Houghton, N. Y.

The Houghton Star is a magazine devoted to educational interests. It is published monthly during the school year (10 issues) by the Union Literary Association of Houghton Seminary.

The subscription price is sixty-five cents a year, payable in advance, or ten cents a copy. The year begins with February though subscriptions may begin at any time.

The paper will be discontinued at the expiration of subscription, hence the necessity of prompt renewal.

Advertising rates will be made known on application.

Application for entrance at Houghton N. Y. as second class matter, pending

Editor-in-Chief,	Stanley Wright '10
Associate Editor,	LaVay Fancher '12
Assistants	
Freda Greenberg, '13	Theos Thompson, '13
Chas. F. Pearce, Special	Miriam Day, '13
Estella Glover, '13	Lura Miner, Prep.
Business Manager,	Ray Sellman
Assistant Manager,	Maurice Gibbs

Editorial.

Some things go in pairs. What we have in mind just now are change and confusion. If the change is from weakness to strength, out of the confusion there will soon come perfect harmony, but if the change is in the reverse order, the gravest apprehensions are liable to be realized. Such are something of the thoughts that grip us as we try to fit into the place left by the retiring editor and write the first editorial. It is not because we have an altogether absurd idea of the retiring editor's ability nor because we wish to appear particularly modest that we write these words. But having known Miss Edgar for some seven years we are beginning to appreciate her worth, and we believe that we express something of the sincere appreciation of her, felt by those for whom she has labored dur-

ing the past year.

At the very beginning of this year we wish to state as clearly as possible the purpose of this paper for we believe it has a purpose. We wish to make it indeed a school paper, a bond of union between our old students and our present ones, for if the old ones lose interest in Houghton the new ones will not gain much. We wish it to reflect as clearly as possible our social life for "No man liveth to himself;" our intellectual life, for "in man there is nothing great but mind;" our spiritual life, for when there ceases to be deep spiritual life at Houghton there is no longer a need of this paper unless it be to help to bring about a resurrection. We wish by it to provide a center of interest for the students; something in the creation of which they feel that they have a part and hence an interest. We wish by it to conserve the interests of our church. If we fail in the latter we fail not only in the former but we fail entirely.

We are not starting in to make mistakes though we shall probably do that, nor to fail, although we may do that. We are starting in to do what our hands find to do and to do it with our might.

America's great cartoonist has come to us and gone—Alton Packard. He told us of Uncle Sam and some of his people. Fast and forceful came the lessons of life as his characters appeared upon the canvas. Only of his masterpiece can we speak here. He promised to draw for us the most popular face in America today; so within a great circle he sketched the face that adorns the dollar. But quickly the scene changes; the circle grows dark and there beneath the rays of an electric light appears the form of a noble young man bending over his money-stacked table, planning, planning, planning. Up in a beautiful part of the city is the splendid home, the lovely wife, the precious

children; here are the money bags— and here is the man. The magic crayon moves on, the lines of care, of avarice, of greed appear, mingled with the lines of age, and now he sits beneath the light, old and bent, haggard and miserly. Again the circle grows dark and there appears a glorious sunset scene, a cottage in the foreground. As the shadows gather, the door opens and down the path come the old couple to sit once more "In the orchard where the children used to play." How it came home to us that indeed, "The finest of all fine arts is the art of living."

One intense desire he has certainly left with us;—Be a Master. If each line traced by the crayon adds such untold expression to the scene before us, cannot each act that we perform thus add to the great panorama of our lives.

A few explanations; in order that the new management may not be embarrassed by them we will make them. It seems that some of us have to spend one-half of our life explaining the mistakes we make during the other half. Owing to delays caused mainly by vacation, our last issue

was later in going to the press and while it was being printed the press broke (perhaps due to defects in the manuscript) thus making that issue very late. Through some misunderstanding a change was made in the corner of the editorial page. The present staff does not take up the work until this issue as will be evident from the paper itself.

Two important conventions reported in these columns; the conference of "Allied Temperance Workers" in Albany by Mr. Cranmer and the "Student Volunteer Convention" by Miss Day, bear a much closer connection than may at first appear. The slogan of the one was "A dry Empire State," of the other, "The Evangelization of the World in this Generation." Unless there is some serious error in our observations or calculations we fear that the complexion of this state, as given in certain maps, will need to take on a much lighter hue before we shall need to cease singing "O Africa, Dark Africa!" But the God of Battles is marshalling His hosts and it is because the ranks are so rapidly filling that Mr. Cranmer can close his article as he does.

TOWN AND SCHOOL.

Freda Greenberg.

Mr. Theos Thompson spent the 29th at Cuba, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hall entertained relatives from Dayton last week.

The lawsuit between Geo. Waldorf and Mr. Robbins has not been settled yet.

The Whitney Bros. gave an excellent program at Fillmore Jan. 25. Many of the students were permitted to hear them.

Among the new students enrolled this semester are Miss Winslow of Michigan, Miss June Keeler of Olean, N. Y., Harold Estabrook of Houghton and Mr. Fall of Indiana.

Miss Alpha Bedford has returned from Buffalo.

Mrs. C. K. Thompson has recovered from a week's illness.

Mr. Taylor and family who have been tenants on Mr. Waldorf's farm, have now left town.

Sunday evening, Jan. 23, our delegates to the Student Volunteer Convention gave an interesting report.

The second election of the officers for the student body occurred last week. Mr. Theos Thompson was re-elected President, Miss Marie Hubbard was elected Secretary, Mr. Gale Thompson, Treasurer.

During her illness of the past few days. Mrs. Waldorf has had the sympathy of her many friends.

Prof. Greenberg and the Misses Emma and Augusta Greenberg have left for South Dakota to take up claims.

On the afternoon of February 1st, the students were startled to learn that Miss Jennie Wright had fractured a bone in her ankle while walking up the Dormitory steps.

This week at Houghton there will be a meeting of the Presidents of the Eastern Conferences to deliberate on educational affairs. Among those who are in town are E. D. Carpenter,

Dean Bedford, P. B. Campbell, H. A. Day and the Rev. Baker of the Indiana conference. The executive board is also expected to attend.

A score or more of students chaperoned by the Misses Hanna Greenberg, Edna Bedford and Bessie Farnsworth enjoyed the good skating at the cove Monday evening, January 24.

Law suit—Burr vs. Lewis.

A lawsuit concerning the ownership of a mink was decided in favor of Mr. Burr as against Mr. Lewis. The court house was the building known as Clark's store.

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOUGHTON.

H. W. McDowell.

"First things first" is easily said. To such a proposition we readily assent. The practice is often times secured with greater difficulty. Under the inspiration of the words of the "Man of God" on the Sabbath, persons resolve to seek first the kingdom of God, that they will not "mind earthly things." The early Monday morning finds them eagerly engaged in the pursuit which absorbs attention all the week, almost entirely excluding spiritual thoughts. Others have learned to "take time to be holy."

Even in the midst of pressing duties and perplexing cases, the heart and mind turn often upward. Every day, perhaps many times a day, the place of secret prayer and quiet and holy meditation is found and the soul is fed with heavenly manna.

Such diversity is found at Houghton as elsewhere. Houghton is a busy place. While we have no factories nor other enterprises to furnish special employment, yet the people of the little town seem almost driven with work all the time. Most of the students carry all the work possible. They are here for business. Many of them are limited in means and wish to shorten the time as much as they

can. Some others unconsciously lose the richness out of their spiritual life. Some allow other things to take the place of "best things." Nevertheless the spiritual tide at Houghton runs deep and has a very encouraging constancy of flow. The eleventh year of personal observation is now passing. Not one of these years has failed to record the salvation and sanctification of a goodly number. I am sure as much can be said of all the years since the school opened.

These results have come not only during times of special revival effort, but in the regular services in the church and in the weekly students prayer meeting and in the private rooms of the students. No student ever lets it be known that he is ready to seek the Lord, but plenty of his fellows gather around him eager to help him through to victory.

This year has already yielded much spiritual fruitage. During the early part of the year there were seekers in many of the regular services. Just before the Holidays the Lord gave us a blessed in gathering. Brother C. K. Thompson of Dakota seemed to be sent at just the right time to assist our faithful pastor. Gracious "showers

of blessings" fell upon us and reached many hearts. The revival spirit abides. Last Sunday evening the altar was filled with hungry hearts.

In former years, as efficient students have left us to enter upon their life work we could not but ask whether any of their kind could be found to fill their places. Each year has brought them to us. As we write these lines we can recall the names of young men and women who have gone from our school to their work as brave and true and devoted as ever the sun

has seen. On our register today are names of their equals. We thank God and are glad to continue our work

There is a growing conviction with the faculty that the spiritual life is fundamental in our educational work. Unless we maintain a higher type of religious life than is found in other schools there is no sufficient reason for our existence.

To the accomplishment of this end we pledge our best efforts and earnestly solicit the most hearty co-operation of all our friends.

LETTER FROM W. C. LOCKWOOD.

207 Riverside Ave.,
Buffalo, N. Y.,
Dec. 3rd, 1909.

Mr. Stanley W. Wright,
Business Manager "Houghton Star,"
Houghton, N. Y.

Dear Sir:—

Your note of yesterday requesting an article for the "Old Student" number of the magazine was received this morning and I am pleased to comply. It ought to be addressed to some one, I suppose. Most epistles are.

If I were to address it to you, I should tell you, Mr. Business Manager of the pleasure it gave me to receive your statement announcing the "Commencement" of the magazine, which was really not the commencement at all, but the culmination of a long series of years of preparation.

Preparation, in the experiences of "Old Students," young then, who would have liked to do what you have done; who saw the need and could not meet; whose desire for some messenger from the Old School has not lessened with the passing years.

I should tell you with what interest have awaited each issue as it appeared and those glimpses of the growth of the Seminary and its facilities, its life and aspirations, and, if you will believe me, the life, aspirations and achievements of such of its individual membership as I found revealed in its

pages.

I should also tell you that your trials and struggles for the successful publication of the magazine were seen and appreciated by a cloud of witnesses, who would rejoice in your triumph and glory in your success.

But it must not be addressed to you, Mr. Business Manager. Your correspondence is doubtless too voluminous already, and it might get more scant persual than its undoubted worth would otherwise secure for it

It might, again, be addressed to the Editors, but I should not dare to tell them in what esteem and awe their readers hold them; I should not dare to attempt to instruct them, for what is there, I ask you, that Editors do not know?

It might be addressed to the "Old Students," but I should then have to confine myself to reminiscences, since "Old Students" have passed their school days and have no more to learn. And of reminiscences, what "Old Student" has not his own, in goodly measure.

I see no hope for it then but to address that sharply critical body, the Young Students, and since school-days experiences are with them all the time I must perforce, if I am to speak at all, relate my experiences since leaving school, if one can ever be said to leave school.

I am, and for some time have been, a Railway Postal Clerk. Railway Postal Clerks are governed under laws enacted by Congress and regulations promulgated by the Postmaster General. Their entrance into the service, their tenure of office, their conduct in office and to some extent at home, what they should do and what they shall not do are all laid out with precision.

Like a Christian, or a parliamentary body, or a mass of inert matter, they are subject to limitations, the passing of which incurs penalties.

They are of course free moral agents, just as before entering the service, free to move within bounds; these limitations being laid down for the good of the service.

There are attractions in the service; among others, one does not work all the time. It might have occurred to me when I sought to enter, that no other worker works continuously either.

This is a life of compensations. It is generally acknowledged, I believe, that one cannot become, let alone be, a Christian, without sacrificing former bad habits. Nor can one work forever without recuperation nor wake forever without sleep. I speak in the mundane sense.

So a postal clerk is allowed periods of rests and recreation. It is not intended that he shall wake and walk and work for 24 or 30 hour periods, but necessity does at times induce him to do so. It would seem, too, that one should not be compelled to study forever. At least a student, having become so familiar with Greek or mathematics as to take a degree, might consider himself competent in that branch of human knowledge.

But here, in the Postal service, the law does not apply; for what one knows today as demonstrated by thorough examination and a complete line of checks on the actual practice of that knowledge, may have to be unlearned tomorrow.

Not that his knowledge was not well founded, but his facts change from day to day, and he must study the same things over again, which makes the eternal verities considerably more attractive than they seemed when they formed a larger bulk of one's study.

The service also, notwithstanding the instability of its facts, depends absolutely on correct knowledge of the momentary truths of those facts.

The young postal clerk of course does not know the complete distribution required on his line when he first goes to work. Yet in emergencies he has to step into the breach left by some older clerk's death or absence from other causes. Then comes the trying hours when his ability to control himself is of more value than would be that which might take a city.

He sees, with each passing moment, the work to be done, pile up. He knows his own incomplete preparation; he realizes the flight of time as never in his life before.

If he can remember somewhat of the instructions he has received from older clerks, if he can conceive of a plan of action which will dispatch the mails in his care without serious delay; if, in other words, he does not lose his head, there will come system out of confusion, order out of chaos, and the very flight of time which at first seemed to bear catastrophe on its wings, will bring the route terminal instead and probably with every pouch locked, even if our novice has a facial coat of grime and sweat that hides his nationality with completeness.

A postal clerk, according to the records of the Post Office Department, missends one piece in every 11,000 handled. Not one in every 11,000 either, but an average of that percentage. That is pretty nearly "machine like precision."

It could not be done by earnestness alone. No man could wish to do it so much that he could step into a car and

equal the work of a skilled clerk, any more than he could occupy the Judge's bench and render learned decisions in intricate cases because he wished to do so.

The Postal Clerk understands, or very soon learns, that his entrance examination is not to be his only one. And where as 70 per cent. will allow one to enter the service, 98 per cent must be made on examinations to keep him there. Do you receive 98 per cent. or better on all examinations? All of them, mind you.

And when you come to be tested on those examinations do you think you could do better yet to the extent of one mistake in eleven thousand items.

Now, the Postal Clerk gets as discouraged as the Seminary Student. It does not sound beautiful to him to hear that Whites Ferry has been changed to McKunes Depot, but he must learn it. Catasaqua, Penna., goes to the N. Y. Gen. & Bfo R. P. O. and he must know it. Mr. Mike Scezapanowski does not receive his copy of the Dziennik Chicagoski regularly and the Postal Clerk must keep a watchful eye open till he is sure that Mike gets his Dizennik this trip.

In studying names that have no apparent relation to each other, he calls his method "pounding."

His friend meets him and says, "Well, John, have you got up Section A, Pennsylvania yet?" "Yes, I have," says John, "I just sat down and pounded on that section till I got it."

I don't know whether that expression expresses anything to you, but to me it means iteration, reiteration, iteration, iteration, iteration, White's Ferry, White's Ferry, White's Ferry, McKunes Depot, McKunes Depot, McKunes Depot, ad nauseam if not ad infinitum.

That is one way a postal clerk studies. There are others, but the seemingly senseless, unreasonable changes that occur in the things he must know it is a very common way.

Another way and one that is almost

invariably adopted in learning the best distribution to make of a certain number of Post Offices is the card system.

"Have you cards for Section B, New York State John?" "No, I borrowed Smith's set the last time I put it up." "Then I think I will have to write them up myself, for I must be examined on that section this year and its first on the list, too."

So he buys one thousand small cards about 2x3 inches, that being about the average number of post offices in one examination. On the face of each one he writes the name of one of the post offices he has to study. On the back of that card he writes the name of the Railway Post Office that serves it first from his standpoint. Now see how the system works. He takes in his left hand a few of these prepared cards. He repeats the name of the Post Office appearing on the face of the first card and if he can, the name of the Railway Post Office which best serves it.

To test his memory he turns the card over and if he has it memorized goes on the next one. If not, he "pounds" on it till he has it or casts about in his mental storehouse for something to distinguish that office from others, to connect it with others or with the Railway Post office he wishes to remember in connection with it, some similarity, dissimilarity or associated thought. After he has learned a number of them he goes over the whole section, throwing out those he has learned and thus has a smaller number of cards to deal with.

In time he has thrown them all out and then thoroughly mixes them and tries again.

This time he finds but a few obstinate ones, but by this method the most unlearnable get the most attention and soon he feels absolutely sure of his knowledge.

Then he volunteers for examination if not called upon before he is ready and if he is nervous or over confident, miscases some, puts them in the wrong box, or finds that what he

knew so well at home, he knows not read so far, that your studies are not so well under the watchful eye of the worst in the world, that no study is unimportant, and also that plodding the examiner.

I might conclude, as I suppose you will carry one far.

have already concluded, if you have

W. C. Lockwood, R. P. C.



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