

EIGHTY
PLEASANT
EVENINGS



Eighty Pleasant Evenings

Compiled by
The Press Committee of Deems Memorial Christian Endeavor Society of Immanuel Church

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PREFACE.

"I WONDER why she did it," said the flower, reflectively. It spoke aloud without knowing it. The gardener's daughter heard it and smiled, for she knew what the flower meant. It had been carefully planted, watered, and cared for, but had somehow forgotten to hold up its head and breathe in the sunlight. Instead, it had drooped disconsolately, because its petals were less brightly colored than those of its neighbors, or its foliage less beautiful than that of others, or because it did not occupy the centre of the garden, or because—well, nobody but the gardener and his daughter can tell just what was the reason. It had drooped, and after a while even the sunlight appeared to have forgotten it. A thicket of weeds grew up around it and almost choked the flower, taking a malicious delight in its discouragement. Finally, the gardener's daughter remembered it. She went to it and cleared away the weeds, that the sun might reach it once more. The surprised little flower tried to thank her, but only succeeded in asking, "Why?" How could she think it worth while? it wondered.

"Do you want to know why?" whispered the gar-

dener's daughter. "Because flowers are God's thoughts. I wanted to help you to grow strong and beautiful for him."

And the flower did not disappoint her.

Are not human souls, even more truly than flowers, "God's thoughts"? It cannot be time wasted to help them grow; and one of the helps is the sunshine of intelligent sympathy and cheery companionship. It is not for the young alone, not for the cultured and fortunate alone. Every soul that ever lived needs sunshine in order to grow into the bright and harmonious life that God intended for it. Then only can it reach and bless other lives with a like helpfulness. Farewell to the weeds of selfishness and despondency; it is time for the sun to shine in! Many workers are already clearing the way, with patient and loving hands, deeming the work not less sacred in its way than that of the prayer meeting. We ask for a place among these, that through "Eighty Pleasant Evenings" we may help, in some measure, to find and develop "God's thoughts," which are too often struggling for existence against many obstacles. We would help them to be free once more, and to "grow strong and beautiful — for him."

L. M. H.

To Our Friends and the Public:

THE compilers wish to acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the aid rendered by various friends in the preparation of "Eighty Pleasant Evenings." While half of the socials were devised by members of the committee, the material for the remaining half was selected from various outside sources. Our thanks are due, for assistance other than that credited elsewhere, to Mr. A. M. Harris, Mr. Knight L. Clapp, Miss Alice Chadwick, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Heath, Miss Euphemia P. Gregory, Mr. J. Arthur Funk, Miss Blanche Cutler, Miss E. Louise Doremus, Mr. A. T. Doremus, Mrs. Amelia D. Alden, Miss Helen S. Daley, and *The Christian Endeavor World*.

It will be noticed that each social or entertainment forms a complete evening in itself, that there are no isolated games or exercises. Of course, this fact does not debar any one from exchanging, combining, omitting, or in other ways altering special features of any evening described. Where programmes are longer than desired, or where a game mentioned in a different social is preferred, the change can be readily made, adapting the material to local needs. It was thought better, therefore, to make each social as complete as possible, for the convenience of busy workers generally. The

suggestions are for the most part tried and proved successes, largely so tested in the community where compiled. They are intended for Christian Endeavor and church workers, also for the Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union and similar temperance societies; for, if there is any one class that is beginning more than others to realize the need of "pleasant evenings," it is the reformers. The Juniors have a place; the reading circles, the good-literature, press, missionary, and flower committees have been remembered; and it is hoped that this little work will find a general welcome, and for many occasions prove useful.

With these few words of greeting, acknowledgment, and explanation, we would invite the reading of what is to follow, and sign ourselves, in the cause of Christian sociability,

THE PRESS COMMITTEE

*of Deems Memorial Christian Endeavor
Society of Immanuel Church.*

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EIGHTY PLEASANT EVENINGS.

A New Year's Social.

Two persons, perhaps the president and the vice-president, should be prepared to represent Father Time and Lady New Year. Father Time's costume may be a long dark robe, a voluminous snow-white beard, and a wig to match. Lady New Year is dressed in white Grecian costume with gilt or silver border and girdle, and a coronet or Grecian bandeaux in the hair.

The opening speech, by Father Time, should briefly review the chief events of the past year, and introduce Lady New Year, who follows with a prophecy appropriate to the hopes and plans of the society for the coming year, and then introduces, in her turn, four other speakers. These should be officers, committee chairmen, or other active members thoroughly familiar with the society's work. Each is dressed to represent a different season of the year, and speaks for five minutes on "The Best Season for Our Society to Work, and Why." The endeavor of each speaker is to prove his own season the most fitting for active work by the society, showing how many kinds of work may be undertaken at that time, etc.

The company decide by vote on the one who makes the best argument. The winner is then presented, by

Father Time, with a pretty calendar containing artistic or literary suggestions pertaining to the interests of the church or society.

This may be varied by having the twelve months instead of the seasons. The dress may be elaborate in effect, or as simple as usual, with only a sash or badge containing the name of the month, and suitable flowers, — a sprig of holly for December, etc.

Refreshments may be cake and chocolate with white paper napkins on which are printed the date and "A Happy New Year." Close with a New Year's chorus, in which all can join.

L. M. H.

A Washington's Birthday Social.

INVITATIONS are worded in the usual form, with the word "Costume" in the lower left-hand corner. These costumes may be simple or elaborate, the essential points being powdered hair for all, kerchiefs, and black court-plaster patches for the ladies, and for the gentlemen long hose, knee-breeches, buckled slippers, and lace ruffles in coat-sleeves. Hanging in a conspicuous place should be a life-size portrait of George Washington, framed in evergreen or in red, white, and blue. Flags and draperies of bunting may be added as decorations, wherever desired. Pin the name of some famous Revolutionary character to the back of each guest, and require him to guess his own identity by means of conversational hints from various sources.

Sheets of paper, with dainty pencils attached by means of narrow parti-colored ribbon, should be previously prepared. The first page may be decorated

with a flag and a patriotic motto. On the inner pages are eight or ten questions or topics for conversation, each numbered, with a space below it for the name of a partner. Each guest engages, or is engaged by, a different partner for each topic. When arranged, all converse five minutes on each topic, beginning, ending, and changing partners and topics at the tap of a bell.

Peanut-shells may be provided, split and tied with narrow ribbon, and containing slips of paper on each of which is written half of the name of a State. These are passed and matched to find partners for refreshments. Just before serving the cake, coffee, and ice-cream, a march should be introduced; and the evening may close appropriately with the singing of patriotic songs.

A Barmecide Banquet.

THE following plan has been successfully tested.

Send out combined invitations and programmes, written on the first and third, or the two inside, pages of ordinary note-paper. The invitations read:—

DEAR FRIEND:

'T would be downright treason
To open the holiday season
By failing to share,
Be it stormy or fair,
In our feast of fun and reason

At
the residence
of

Miss —

———— Evening, ———, 189—

The programme page may be as follows : —

MENU.

Consommé à la Galop.

Pressed Tongue. Saratoga Chips.

Roast Turkey.

Yosemite Sauce.

Game.

Plum Pudding

or

Jack Horner's Pie.

Scotch Marmalade.

We give the interpretation.

First course: "Consommé à la Galop," a lively piano selection.

Second course: "Pressed Tongue," the reading of several short extracts from current literature; or a bright talk from some one not a member of the society, thus "pressed" into service, might be substituted; "Roast Turkey," a paper or debate on the Eastern situation at the close of the war between Turkey and Greece; "Yosemite Sauce," a reading from Gunnison's "Rambles Overland," giving his delightful description of the Yosemite; "Saratoga Chips," selected readings from Josiah Allen's Wife's "Samantha at Saratoga;" and "Game," which might be any general exercise preferred, but was, in the instance referred to, the game of "Book Reviewing" described in "Press Social No. 2."

Third course, "Plum Pudding, or Jack Horner's Pie," consists of a handful of pop-corn for each guest, placed in a violet-colored napkin with pansy border, a slip of paper inserted containing a written quotation, and the whole gathered up and tied with a narrow pink, red, or yellow ribbon. These present a remarkably pretty appearance when passed. Any delicate color will answer for the napkins, but the pansies are desirable as suggestive of thoughts. The guests are instructed to untie the napkins and follow Jack Horner's example, the "plums" being the quotations, which are read aloud during the eating of the pop-corn, and should be of a witty or humorous character.

The last course, "Scotch Marmalade," is the singing of a Scotch song, and a reading from "Ian Maclaren," Barrie, Macdonald, or some other popular Scotch dialect writer. A verse of "Auld Lang Syne" is an appropriate close.

L. M. H.

A Press Social.

THIS is partly original and partly suggested by *The Golden Rule*.

Edit an oral newspaper, with your president or some ready speaker in charge as editor-in-chief, to explain and conduct matters. For the editorial page, have several four-minute papers or addresses, from the pastor and other "contributing editors," on topics of general or current interest. The page in charge of the "news editor" should consist of selected clippings and written items, either local or of wider range, concerning the work of the organization.

A department of "Personals" is amusing, if planned long in advance. It consists of head-lines and short but thrilling incidents clipped from newspapers, regarding people whose names chance to be the same as those of certain members of your society. Collected and pasted on a card or sheet of paper, they can be read by the editor of the department, and afterwards passed around, to satisfy any who may suspect him of improvising.

For your literary page have one good short story, original if possible, written in advance by your best home talent; or, failing this, read a selected one. Impromptu attempts at its pictorial illustration follow. For the best sketch thus made, an illustrated book, such as "A Daily Message for Christian Endeavorers," was once given; and to the least successful artist, a porous plaster, *warranted to draw*.

For your advertising columns, prepare in advance a list of familiar modern advertisements, retaining the phraseology, but substituting the name or initials of your organization for the thing advertised; as, "Life is a constant battle, made easier by using C. E." Appropriate literature may be displayed on a table; the foreign and curiously printed newspapers predominating.

Serve "pressed refreshments," consisting of lemonade (pressed lemons) and pressed chicken sandwiches, to which may be added ice-cream pressed into bricks. Auction off some articles, like a pressed meat loaf, compressed yeast cakes, etc., toward the close of the evening.

A suitably "pressing" form of invitation to this social would be as follows:—