

ing her sons into spiritual dwarfishness and reducing the sunlight and fire-heat of divine love in her heart to the chill and gloominess of a cloudy moonlight."

These are fearful words, but they are sadly true. Well may the writer add: "Oh, that the deep conviction of sacred obligation, its clear-apprehension and the spirit of its cordial performance, may quickly descend from 'the Giver of every good and perfect gift!' Oh, that the Holy Spirit of light, love and generous devotedness, may at once breathe life, warmth, and sympathy, into every Christian heart!"

It must be admitted that there is an evil in the Church and that something should be done to remedy it. What can be done? This is an important question and its consideration must be postponed to the next article.

A. F. THOMSON.

Economy, November, 1881.

A Growing Power.

There is a feeling in all the churches that the eldership is not accomplishing as much as it might. It is out of this grow the debates about rotary eldership, the elder's eligibility to certain official and representative positions, his relations to the prayer-meeting, Sabbath school and general church work. That the elders themselves have become infected with the prevailing restlessness is a hopeful indication. It is their sign of life. And in private talks, public meetings, and through the press they express the wish to know their duty and be able to do it. For too long a time these important officers have been permitted to rest unprompted to current activity. Traditional and hereditary formalism fixed them in habits which changed conditions of religious life and work have been slow to change. Indeed they have not even yet sufficiently moved, though the effort is being made to do it, and it is an effort to which they gave their deepest sympathy. There are intelligence and judgment enough in the eldership to make it a power ten-fold greater than it is. All that is needed is a deeper inspiration and a better training.

After all, what must be most counted on in the session, is the character it has

as composed of men of real piety and consecration to God. Talent, activity, adaptation to work, business faculty—all these go for nothing, if there is wanting the vital power of a holy life. A congregation should wish for nothing more earnestly than for a session which shall radiate a wholesome influence—a tender, earnest, vigorous power of spiritual energy. If it have this—and have it in proper adjustment to contingent necessities—it cannot but be productive of good. The best Christian, other things being equal, will always make the best elder.—*United Presbyterian.*

A New Religious Order.

The tendency of a section of Churchmen to abstinent, if not ascetic vows, is curiously illustrated by the proposals now being formulated for a new guild, to be called the order of "Companions of the Golden age." Each companion must be a baptized Christian, professing the faith as set forth by the Apostle's Creed, be an early riser, (at least as early as 7 A. M.,) use prayers and intercessions for the objects of the order, agree to dress soberly and to lead a life which is tender, temperate and humane. So qualified and accepted he shall be distinguished by a purple badge, and may at any time after six months' probation proceed to the following grades, with at least six months intervals between each:—The crimson—abstinence from the flesh of birds and beasts; the blue—additional abstinence from fish; the white—additional abstinence from alcoholic beverages and tobacco. The motto of the order is the prophetic '*Non nocebunt non occident.*'

One hundred and ninety-two students have applied for entrance in Princeton College, which is about thirty more than during any previous year. At the opening of the year (September 14th), President McCosh, in delivering the usual address, said: "When I was appointed to my office here, I assured the public that while I would preserve with care the American character of the College, ~~some~~ improvements might be adopted from other countries. Every body commends the special care taken of individual students in Oxford and Cambridge by the tutorial system. We have now succeeded in securing this end in Princeton by the multiplication, not of tutors, but of professors, so that the younger classes are taught in small divisions. Another