

where such do not now exist, the constitution in each case to be approved by the session; the active membership to be composed of those in full communion with our own or some other Evangelical Church; and the minister or missionary to be counted *ex-officio* an 'active' member." We desire to examine this resolution briefly with a view to directing the attention of the Church to its importance.

The first thing evident from the resolution, is that the development of the gifts and graces of the young people, is something greatly to be desired. This is pre-eminently the era of the young people. Look around us where we will, we must admit that never before in the world's history, have young people been pressing forward so strenuously, and successfully to lay their hands on the prizes of life. So much is this apparent, that occasionally some resent their advance as presumptuous in comparison with the conduct of people of like age a generation or two ago.

But surely this resentment is ill-founded, for while we would not undertake to defend every individual case, it is clear to every student of present day progress that more may be compressed now into the first twenty-five years of a man's life, than could find place in his grandfather's at fourscore. This being so, it is not difficult to realize the importance of securing for the service of God those who are thus in ever increasing numbers becoming large factors in every work of life. Some of the "gifts and graces" of the young people, worth developing and utilizing, may be looked at for a moment.

At the risk of appearing redundant we would place first amongst these the gift and grace of youth itself. Youth is a splendid asset amidst the business, and a grand equipment amidst the tunnel of life. Youth is almost synonymous with hopefulness, and hopefulness is one of the elements of success in any line of action. Youth is prepared to follow up to high achievement "in the face of clenched antagonisms" for life is a plain, stretching forward, and there is not as yet any roadway strewn with the shattered crowns of disappointed hopes to deaden and sicken laudable ambitions.

Along with youth we must place strength. John says, "I write unto you *young* men, because ye are *strong*—" and we certainly need not exclude any kind of strength, from the category under that word. The strength that overcomes, has elements, physical and mental, as well as spiritual, and these elements surely are present in large measure on the growing side of this present life. We want to bring all the strength we can to the help of the Lord, against the mighty, and hence must draw everywhere on our young people.

With youth and strength, let us place the enthusiasm peculiarly characteristic of the young. Enthusiasm is a sweeping force.

The dull phlegmatic man, however, good, never accomplishes as much as the white-hot enthusiast, who, intent upon the object before him, sways onward in the wealth of his strength. Enthusiasm, too is contagious. People catch the spirit of it by contact, and a few well-balanced enthusiasts create in a great many more, an earnestness that threshes mountains of difficulty into small dust.

Along with all these "gifts and graces," which may be spoken of as peculiarly accessory to the morning of life, place the talents and gifts of song and speech, which may both be utilized to the highest ends, and we see why it is "well worth while" developing them and yoking them to the work of the Master.

The second thing evident from the resolution is that a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor, or similar association, is considered the best means of developing these gifts and graces, and securing them for Christ and the Church. Hence the organization of such a society in every congregation and mission station is recommended. That the organization of such a society is a means to the end desired appears in the highest degree a reasonable view. Nothing develops and draws out the latent power of a man so much as the presence of opportunity, and the consciousness of personal responsibility. Both these come home to the member of a Christian Endeavor or similar Society. There is opportunity for the exercise of gifts of speech, and song in the meetings that does not appear to the young to be so real in connection with the ordinary meetings of the Church, at which the older members of the congregation are present. There is opportunity for personal work and conversation in efforts to increase the membership which can be shared by all. There is opportunity too for the practical work of visiting the sick, relieving the poor, etc., in which these societies engage. No member can fail to realize personal responsibility in connection with all departments of the work, and hence the probability of development in work amongst the members is beyond doubt.

And lastly (for our space is limited), experience has pronounced these societies a success where rightly organized and faithfully conducted. Churches have come into a state of revival through their efforts, and empty pews and depleted coffers have been refilled. In the scattered Mission fields of the Western prairie, such societies have proved themselves an unspeakable blessing, by providing for services and meetings, when the missionary could not reach every point and by maintaining religious worship during the winter or other seasons, when there was no missionary at all.
