

to overcome or remove these hindrances, and that thereby our young men may be retained in connection with our churches, and enlisted in Christian work.

1. The first of these I mention is *good Christian home training*. Much responsibility rests on parents in this matter, and failure to train up children in the home, and to exercise a kind yet firm discipline, is one cause of the evils so often to be deplored. Boys of thirteen or fourteen in this New World think they are too old *and too wise* to be taught or directed by their parents who were born fifty years ago in the Old World. The consequence is that such boys will not go to church or Bible class unless they please, and parents cannot send them. This lax parental discipline in America is doing more than anything else to swell the crowded ranks of the great army of roughs which disgrace our city streets, commit all sorts of crimes, and fill our jails. Just in proportion as this feature prevails, in that proportion will the church encounter difficulty with her young men. Parents ought not only to come to church themselves, but they should also bring their boys with them; and these boys ought to be brought into the family pew, and not allowed to sit in the back seats, or up in the gallery, with a lot of other bad boys. Then not only should they be trained at home, but they ought also to be sent as regularly as possible to the Sabbath school, and also be kept under proper control and regular discipline. If this be done, the church will find a great help in regard to the young men in her charge. I would put this home training and discipline in the foreground, as one of the most effectual means of securing the good of the young men in the church. I am sure, in the great majority of cases, the church gets her active Christian workers from homes where there was

faithful religious instruction, and kind yet firm parental discipline.

2. A second help is in the *training of the Sabbath School and Bible Class*. On the importance of this, I am sure I need not insist. The Sabbath school, with all its classes, is a very great help to secure the connection of the young with the church and their training for Christian work. To have the classes graded all the way up from the infant class to the Bible class, with efficient teachers and good appliances, is of great value in this connection. With God's blessing on the instruction thus imparted, our young men may be trained up for God's service and Christian work, passing from the Sabbath school to the Bible class, and from the Bible class to the full communion of the Church. It is just here that one of the great difficulties in regard to young men really lies. When they grow up, it is not easy to keep them in attendance on this instruction. As the boys become, as they think, too old to go to Sabbath school, and just at a time when it is of most importance to retain hold of them, they slip so often from our grasp, and are to a large extent lost to the church. To have an efficient teacher, either in the person of the pastor or some other well qualified teacher, who will take hold of a class of larger boys or young men, and show not only a deep interest in them, but faithfully teach, visit and pray for them, something, no doubt, would be done.

3. Then, lastly, *enlist them in due time in Christian work*. Just as the arm is strengthened by use, so will love for, and interest in, religious concerns be developed by exercise. In the Sabbath school, in the managers' board, in the missionary association, and in the young people's society, many doors of usefulness will be opened for the exercise of those