

appreciation in and of itself will dispose him kindly toward his minister. There are various other ways in which a pastor bent upon knowing and reaching the men of his congregation will find opportunities for doing such pastoral work. Desire, not necessity, is the mother of invention.

III. There is one other dereliction which we might own to one another, namely: a neglect of the men in the organization of the church. How many of us have men's missionary societies? How many of us have circles of King's Sons, as well as of King's Daughters? How many of us have a single organization within our churches for men only? Not for young men or for boys—they get more attention—but for the rank and file of the men of the church, the men of maturer lives and more settled characters. And yet with some of us the women's societies run up into the teens. Are the women the only ones that ought to be set to work? Are they the only ones that will respond to our efforts and give us their aid and cooperation? I do not believe it. The men are busy, fearfully busy in a city like New York, absorbed and preoccupied during the day and fatigued and exhausted at night; but they make time for other things, and could and would make time for religious work if it were given them to do, and made attractive and interesting. Few people will turn squarely away from an opportunity to do good that is right before them, provided that opportunity appeals to them as a practical and personal one.

We must, therefore, give the work of the church this aspect or perspective, and lay it directly and heavily upon the consciences of the men; we must so plan and organize that work that it shall presuppose, demand, and attract the participation of the men; and when we do this the men will come forward and bear their end, at least as they do not now. Then there will be no debts upon our foreign board or upon our home board, but our treasuries will

be full, and the churches vastly more alive and energetic.

I can not help feeling that when there is inactivity among the men of our churches it is due more to the defective leadership or imperfect organization of the pastor than to the indifference or unresponsiveness of his parishioners. There ought to be a men's Missionary Society in every church. Every church ought also to have a men's Social League whose object should be to develop acquaintance among the male adherents of the church. There are other societies for men which we might easily and profitably form, and which, if properly organized and wisely guided, would not, I feel confident, lack for supporters. Let us show more interest in the men, and there is no doubt that they will reciprocate by manifesting more interest in the church.

#### Is Christianity Dying Out in the United States?

Dr. H. K. Carroll, of *The Independent*, attempts to answer this question in *The Forum*. He compares the census of 1890 with that of 1895.

According to the former census there were 20,618,307 communicants in the United States, and up to last year the totals had been increased to 24,646,584—a gain of 4,028,277 in five years. During the same time there was a gain of 23,075 churches, and 21,646 ministers. These figures do not fully represent the gain in new members, because the 1,500,000 losses by death had first to be made up before a net increase could be shown. The value of church buildings, lots, and furniture in 1890 was about \$680,000,000; now it is thought to be fully \$800,000,000.

Great and powerful, therefore, as are the forces antagonizing Christianity, and dark as the outlook sometimes seems to be, it is still true that the forces at the command of our religion were never before as potent and effective as now, and that never were so many Christians ready to lay down their lives for Christ as now.