

the General Assembly's Committee, eight hundred and eighteen are Christian Endeavor. The reason for this is found in the fact that while our Church has never had a definite and recognized form of organization for our young people (other, I should say, than the Young People's Home Missionary Society, which has not yet been received with the favor it deserves) the Christian Endeavor Society comes with a simple form of organization, a constitution ready for adoption, a plan of work and study so elastic that it is suitable for any congregation, and with a record of successful operation that appeals very strongly to ardent souls, and may I not add, with an inter-denominational flavor that is specially attractive to those who have been taught in the liberal spirit that has ever been characteristic of the Presbyterian Church.

Now, this very fact that a Society which, apart from emphasizing evangelical truth, has no distinctive doctrinal or denominational teaching, prevails so largely in our congregations gives anything but pleasure to many. It is worthy of note that at the recent Convention held in San Francisco the Congregational Church was, next to our own, most largely represented, while next to it stood the sect of the Campbellites. Now the former Church, I think it will be acknowledged, is standing more and more for union on the ground of disregard of distinctive doctrine, while the latter, through one of its official organs avowed its purpose of promoting, not *inter-denominational*, but *non-denominational* feeling. With two of the strongest forces in Christian Endeavor, then, laboring in this direction, it is evident that if our young people's study and work are to retain a distinctive Presbyterian character, and our young people themselves to grow up intelligently loyal to their Church, there must be either the substitution of something for the Christian Endeavor Society or the introduction into it of an element generously and yet strongly denominational. Someone may here suggest that this denominational spirit is the very feature of Christian life and work, which we should seek rather to obliterate than to make prominent; from