

Especially in regard to Sabbath School and Church anniversaries and entertainments which are so common at this season, it is fitting that a word should be spoken.

Some of our students will, during the holidays, be supplying vacant congregations ; some will be with their friends in the congregations to which they formerly belonged. In either case, if there is an entertainment of any character in connection with the Church, the student will probably be expected to take part. Here again, let me repeat, there will be plenty ready to give the entertainment, although in connection with the Church of Christ, a purely secular and often a positively comic tone throughout, to make it in fact utterly incongruous with the spirit of the work which Christ has given to His Church to perform ; shall we then, so as not to appear singular, fall in with these, or shall we venture to be even extreme in our attempts to make such entertainment what everything in connection with the Church should be—Christian?

That the latter course should be ours, and that such a course is necessary, is surely plain to all who have had any experience in this phase of church-work, as it is called ; so general, in fact, has the light, frivolous tone of church entertainments become, that those who gather to them are dissatisfied unless the "performers" of the evening furnish them with "tea meeting stories" and trivial amusement.

When at a conference or in our studies we consider calmly the relation which the Church holds to those who meet under her auspices, we are ready enough to concede that, though an entertainment may be one of the season's, which some would call "out of season," yet even there she should "be instant" in seeking the spiritual good of all whom she can reach.

In a word, then, let us during the coming vacation, wherever we may be, remember that we are meeting with persons in circumstances which can never be repeated ; that we have given ourselves to the work not of amusing people but of benefiting them ; that we are at all times acting in the name of, and as representatives for, our Master ; and, remembering these things, opportunities afforded us shall not all pass by unimproved.

May I also suggest that the same principles which govern us as individuals should also govern those who intend going out as a body of students, and, by a series of entertainments, raising money to help a weak congregation ?

That it should ever be found necessary to resort to such means of collecting funds for Christ's cause is, I believe, to be regretted ; but far more is it to be regretted that such entertainments when they do take place are seldom characterized by anything to distinguish them from those provided by any worldly organization.

Our students who have taken this work upon themselves can here make a laudable departure, and set a good example in the line which should be followed.