

Are Young Men's Christian Associations Rivals of the Churches?

REV. A. H. SCOTT.

The churches have a right to expect that the Young Men's Christian Association is not and shall not be a rival. I mean, of course, that it is not and can not be aiming to supersede the churches in the attainment of that which only one or the two can possess. The Association is not striving for superiority over what we commonly term the church. There was a time when the Young Men's Christian Association was regarded as a competitor; indeed, in some quarters, as a thief. Great bodies move slowly, and some "great bodies" were very slow in arriving at the correct conclusion that the Association was not driving at the church, but driving *on with* the church. There have been found some, and there are to be found still, a few, who crankily retain the imagining that the existence of a Young Men's Christian Association in a town or city is a standing charge against the churches, that they are falling to do God's work. Such of the brethren mistakenly suppose that the Association pronounces the churches barren, and, in consequence, declares an agency outside of the church an essential. Surely this is a disturbance of the right order. Brethren, is it not the truth that the *vitality* of the church brought the Young Men's Christian Association into being?

Is it not the fact that zeal, nourished by truth-*enjoyed* in the church of Christ was the initial motive in this organization, which is yet under half a century old? Is it not the fact that in the city, town, or church, whose spirituality is most sprightly, you find the Christian people the warmest advocates of the Association's work? I wish every mind in the land were freed from the notion that the spirit of rivalry belongs to this association agency. I wish it were universally understood that the association is a part of the church, just as its true members are a part of the believing numbers. With this understood, all would know the truth, viz: that the Young Men's Christian Association is the Church doing its work in a particular department. It is the church seeking the welfare of young men.

Why they like it.

In our last district convention two of the delegates, in answer to the question "why do you like the Young Men's Christian Association?" gave testimony which brought out two important characteristics of our work. One said, in substance, "When I was a young man the only places in our town to which I could go in the evening for a social time were a beer garden and a bowling alley. I don't want my boy to say that when he grows up; and I like the Association, and I support it, because it furnishes a place for young men to go to." Are we not responsible if we let young men grow up without giving them a place of refuge?

The other said, "I like the Young

Men's Christian Association because there I come in contact with some young men who were dead in earnest in their religion, and who made me so ashamed of my indifference that I have gone to work." Isn't there a duty resting on us to stir up the brethren? These are important features of our work; a safe resort, and a place for rousing sleepy Christians.—*W. D. Murray, Plainfield.*

Every member of the Association should get and read

"The Young Men's Era."

Y. M. C. A. OFFICERS.

The Association is controlled by a Board of Directors, from the membership of the Association, business men of the town. They have the direction of the detail work of the Association; the employment of salaried officers, etc. They are elected by the Association just as the officers of any corporate body are elected, and are responsible to the Association. 12 members, with the officers, form the Board.

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REGULAR APPOINTMENTS
Sunday, 10 a. m. Bible Training Class, in Parlor.
4:30 p. m. Young Men's Meeting, in the Recreatorium.
6:00 p. m. Boy's Meeting in the Parlor.
Evening Prayers in the Parlor each night.
6:30 p. m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.
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