

ed with beauty, and religion frequently ignored or caricatured. As this kind of literature is largely read, it exerts a silent, yet potent, influence to draw young men especially away from the means of grace and interest in matters of religion. Nor can we here shut our eyes to the sad fact that profane and obscene books are in the hands of many of our young men, and as these are handed from one to another and read, a terrible influence for evil is spread abroad. And in large shops and factories, such as we find in towns, where many young men are employed, and where in older men the devil has often many zealous missionaries, scores of young men are corrupted before their apprenticeship is served.

The last point here mentioned is that many of our best young men have their time so occupied *with club and society meetings*, that but little is left for taking active part in church work. If a young man belongs to the Freemasons, or Odd-Fellows, and to a Temperance Society, and to Debating Club or Literary Society, he will find little time for prayer meeting, and still less to prepare the Sabbath school lesson for teaching in the school. I often fear that, good as many of these things may be in themselves, yet the energy of our young men is drafted off into other channels than the church, and thus the real effective working power of the church lessened. We have in this fact a strong plea for having as many of these societies as is proper in connection with our churches, for thereby a healthier moral tone is preserved, and the habit of going to the place of worship will be fostered.

2. Then, secondly, there may exist some hindrances even in the church itself. Sometimes there may be lack of interest in young men on the part of the church. No one of the older men speaks an encouraging word, no

one gives them a kindly welcome; in fact no one seems to care for their souls, and so young men are repelled from, rather than attracted to the church and means of grace. Sometimes young men are never given anything to do in the church. The older men are kept in all the offices, and so go on doing all the work in managing the affairs of the church, or in conducting the work of the Sabbath school, and the result is that young men are not trained up to take an interest in church work, or to get any experience in it. And sometimes the pastor, too, partly because of his natural disposition, and partly by thoughtlessness of manner, fails to make that acquaintance with young men, or to show that kind sympathy with them, that will lead them to feel that they have in their pastor one who is a true friend in whom they can confide, and from whom they can seek advice at any time. True, it is not easy for older men to go back to their youthful days, and remember how they felt, and what they liked, when young men, but it is well to be able to do this to a certain degree. On the other hand care ought to be taken not to make the mistake of leading young men to think that the church's work cannot possibly be carried on without them, or of leaving the impression amongst young men generally, that unless a great deal is made of them at once, and they are put into office right away, they ought not to attend church, or take any interest in the cause of Christ. Whilst taking a warm sympathetic interest in young men, and enlisting them in Christian work, care should be taken not to puff up their youthful pride, nor to allow them to forget that for work or office in the church certain suitable gifts and qualifications are needed.

II.—A few things may now be said regarding the *means* to be employed