

grace of God, and how comparatively few are won to a life of consecration to the Saviour after that. We hold our special services week after week every year, but how few from the higher callings are gathered into the fold of Christ. In the great majority of cases their culture and service are lost to the Christian Church. If the best talent and the widest social influence embodied in the rising generation are to be secured for Christ and to enrich His spiritual heritage on earth, then the Church of God must not shut her eyes to the day of her opportunity, but must look to the boys of to-day for the men who are to stand at the helm to-morrow. There is no doubt but that it comes within the range of Gospel privilege to be so trained up in the nurture of the Lord that the boy may never know the time when he was not conscious of the love of God shed abroad in his heart. While some have had, happily, an experience of this kind, it must be admitted that it is very exceptional. The great majority of boys grow up into the knowledge of conscious departure from God by acts of voluntary transgression, and, if this tendency of the degenerate heart to "wander wide from the central point of bliss" be not early restrained by the converting grace of God, what reasonable expectation of moral and spiritual reformation can be cherished after the habits of wrong-doing become rooted and grounded in life and character? The adversary of souls is doing