

lead so many congregations to expect more from them than from those who are greatly their seniors? It is very different from what prevails in other professions, for here we seem to set very little value on experience, which is so highly prized elsewhere. What, then, are the attractions that create this widespread preference?

"The glory of young men is their strength," and strength is always attractive. No doubt, there are some men who seem to be always young, like Oliver W. Holmes, who, when an octogenarian, spoke about being eighty years young; but these are the exception; it is in the young men that we expect to find strength.

We look to them, *e. g.*, for the strength of enthusiasm. There are those, indeed, who carry their enthusiasm on into old age. Like Caleb, at eighty-five, they seem to be as strong as they were in their early prime, ready to go up against the Anakim, recognizing that there are always some wrongs to be righted, and eager to fight on to the end in the faith of the Lord. There are aged ministers who seem never to have lost the fervour of their first love, the enthusiasm of their early consecration. Their zeal has not been weakened, their ardent love of souls has not been chilled by the lapse of years. That kind of spirit can find no dead-line at fifty; because of the strong pulse of life that is in them their leaf does not wither and they bring forth fruit in old age.

The Church expects this strength of enthusiasm in her young men, this fulness of life that rejoices in work as a strong man rejoices to run a race. There are young men who are feeble and old before their time, who live and move as if they had already exhausted life's fountains, and had found all things to be vanity. They speak with a "Nil admirari" tone, as if in God's fair world there were nothing about which to grow enthusiastic, nothing in His Church to call forth the most intense and high-strung effort of which they are capable. For them the dead-line of the ministry was drawn at their birth.

Every congregation desires a man with enthusiasm, desires him because it knows it needs him; and this kind of strength is more common among the young than among the old. He who is richly endowed with it will not be much troubled about ques-