

army, his heart immediately goes out in pity and compassion for his wayward son. He begins to tremble for Absalom lest the stern sons of Zerah should mete out to the young man that punishment which he so richly deserved, and in an agony of fear the father cries out, in the words of our text, "Is the young man Absalom safe" ?

In taking these words for my text it is not my intention to deal with them further in their textual connection, but will endeavor, in a very practical manner, to apply the question of the text to different phases of the lives of the young men who are in this church to-night.

In studying the life of a young man of to-day there are many things regarding which we may enquire "Is the young man safe."

We will enquire.

I. Is the young man safe as far as a successful worldly career is concerned? Is his success as a business man, or as a professional man, or as a mechanic, etc., assured? From the standpoint of the man of the world is the young man going to make a success of life? Now, while I do not by any means say that this is the most important subject for a young man to consider in starting life, still undoubtedly it

should be one for very serious meditation. When a youth has emerged from boyhood, and his mind has untrammelled itself from the credulity of childhood, one of the first questions that should claim his serious consideration should be: how am I going to make my way in the world? And the sooner he faces this question the better for himself. The sooner any young man makes up his mind that the stern battle of life is before him and has got to be fought by himself the better for all concerned.

Now, one of the first questions to be considered along this line is, for what business, profession or trade am I best adapted? For what particular sphere in life has nature given me the best qualifications? I believe there is not a young man here to-night to whom God has not given abilities that will shine in some particular sphere better than in any other and in that place, and in that alone will he accomplish the greatest success of which he is capable. So many young men simply drift into some sphere of life for which they have no ability, and consequently their lives are comparative failures. So often we hear the sad refrain- "What I might have been." The majority of young men to-day