

to a stranger, or who leads him astray, is looked upon with contempt. What shall we think of the Christians of our city if they fail to look after the boys? Friends, we write thus because as an Association we desire to do something towards reaching the boys of Toronto. Will you not help us? If you wish to know how you may help, please drop a line to the secretary, and he will let you know.

Y. M. C. A. WORK AMONG RAILROAD MEN.

This work as conducted in Toronto is gaining favor with the companies and employees, and we look forward to still greater advance and efficiency during the coming year. In the United States the work is assuming an importance and gaining a position far exceeding the most sanguine expectations of its originators. Mr. E. D. Ingersoll, the energetic Railroad Secretary of the Executive Committee, visited our city during the past week, and held a conference with our President and the Railroad Committee, and we hope the suggestions made by him may assume shape under the leadership of Mr. W. H. Howland and his associates in the railroad department of our work.

The following items are culled from Mr. Ingersoll's printed circular report:

Twenty-five Reading Rooms, at twenty-two Railroad centres in the United States have already been opened with a Railroad Secretary in charge of each room. New York has two and Chicago three Reading Rooms. In some cases, parlors, amusement and bath rooms are attached.

The International Committee seeks through the labors of its Railroad Secretary to develop this work as rapidly as the intelligent interest already taken in it can be extended, and competent men can be secured and trained as managing Secretaries at the various Railroad centres.

DOES THIS WORK PAY?

This work is yet new, but has called forth many testimonials from Railroad Officials who have watched its progress and results.

Read the following:

Hon. ASHBEL WELCH, formerly President of the United Railroads of New Jersey writes:

"Many of the railroad men have no home, or are compelled to spend much of their time, Sundays as well as week days, away from home. In their working trim they do not feel free to go into usual places of religious worship. Many go to the drinking saloons, because they have nowhere else to go. The Young Men's Christian Association is exactly the right party to look after them.

This work is important from the great interest the public have in the railroads. The better the men who run the roads, the safer and better they will be run.

It is important to the owners of the railroad, though stigmatized as nabobs and bloated bond-holders, by far the greatest number of names on the stock lists of the companies with which I am familiar, are names of persons of modest means who have invested their savings in those stocks. More than a quarter of those stock owners are women and orphan children. So their interests are worth considering.

This Railroad work is important because of its influence on men who themselves exert a great influence on other men. The talent, piety and energy of railroad men themselves are organized and utilized in this work, the object being to aid them in their work, not to do it for them.

The managers of railways should give facilities and show interest in the moral well-being of their employees. To say nothing of any higher motive, it would tend to make their employees more faithful and useful."

Gen. GEO. B. WRIGHT, formerly R. R. Commissioner of Ohio, and late Receiver of the I. B. & W. R. R., writes:

"Those who have marked the effect of these Railroad Christian Associations will say with earnestness, God speed the work. Its effect upon the men is to make them prompt and faithful in the discharge of their duties, and cheerful and happy in their homes. No railroad management can mark the changes wrought by this work without a feeling of satisfaction. I trust it may go forward with renewed energy and success.

Mr. R. E. SMITH, Assistant General Manager of the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad writes:

"I know of no other Organization than the Y. M. C. A. so well calculated to accomplish the desired end. Its catholicity of spirit and its practical and direct methods eminently qualify it for such work. I believe it to be altogether wise to secure its co-operation in, and to commit to its oversight and care, any effort to promote the good morals among railroad employees."

Doest thou believe in the Son of God.—John ix. 35.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR YOUNG MEN.

In our last issue we referred to this subject. Since then we have received the official circular issued by the Executive Committee, from which we take the following extracts:

"The first time we united to observe this second week in November as a week of Prayer, the call of the Committee was sent to sixty seven Associations, the whole number then known to exist on this continent. Year by year God has graciously answered our prayers and efforts in blessings beyond our faith. This year thirty State and Provincial Conventions report an attendance of over 1,400 delegates from 402 Associations. These Associations have been so blessed in reaching young men that they have received from churches and friends for the current expenses of their work, over \$300,000.

The present call to the fifteenth observance of this sacred season goes to over nine hundred Associations of Christian Young Men on this continent, better organized than ever before for their definite work on behalf of young men, better manned with trained Secretaries and efficient working Committees, better equipped with rooms, buildings and other appliances needed to promote the religious, social, intellectual and physical welfare of young men, and more responsive, because more able to respond to the call for wise and enthusiastic Christian effort among the students in our colleges, the young men on our railroads, the growing multitude of commercial travellers, our German speaking young men, colored young men, and all classes of young men in city and country, North, South, East and West.

And if, Brethren, we come to the Throne of Grace this year not only more grateful than ever before, but also more humble in view of God's goodness, and having our expectation, not from what has been gained, but from Him and from the power and outpouring upon us of His Holy Spirit, then we may reverently look for the blessing we need,—a blessing that shall make Christian work for young men in every branch of it ten-fold more efficient and useful than it has ever been."

In accordance with our custom of former years, this week of prayer will