

acknowledged responsibilities. He is a God of definitely announced plans and purposes. He does not deal in generalities, and never approves of it in His people. Positive purpose, definite work and earnest effort is the secret of success everywhere, and not less in Christian life.

The pledge of the Young People's Society has not called into existence one new Christian duty. Every duty therein specified originated with our becoming Christians, and is equally binding upon every professed follower of Christ, whether pledged or not. It is but the formal expression of the acknowledged obligation of every person who would become a true follower of Jesus. The Christian is never free from doing his whole duty to God and man, pledge or no pledge. The pledge is not an added responsibility, but a means of helping us to perform existing ones. It is a memoranda of accepted Christian duties, and should be regarded as sacred as business, social and other obligations. A man who disregards his word of honor, or undertakes to pay on the "feel like it" principle, would have no business standing. Some think if they have not taken a pledge, they are under no responsibility to perform the obligation thereof. The not taking of a pledge where duty is required, is the same as not keeping a pledge when taken. The obligation exists in either case, only in the latter it is expressed and admitted, and in the former unexpressed and unadmitted. Any duty is an obligation, and not to pledge ourselves to its performance no more releases us than not giving our note absolves us from the payment of a just debt.

Our pledge differs from that of all secular societies or benevolent orders, since assuming these is purely optional, and may or may not be necessary to Christian life. It raises a definite standard by formulating specific Christian duties, emphasizing existing fundamentals, and making plain certain essentials. It simply concretes that which is universal and necessary to the successful living of a true Christian life. We may get to heaven when we are dead without taking it, but shall not be able to build up such grand and noble characters, or live such useful lives as we shall by doing so. The fact is, all Christians who have impressed the community for good, and whose lives