

tion with young men of fair education up to higher, upon their personal relation to Christ. Such an inquiry will quickly open their eyes to the fact, and the extent of the fact, that there is a large infidel class (and a most important class it is, being in the main the younger men of the cities) who are not only growing away from the churches, but are crystallizing into a positive force in opposition.

But this upper circle of infidelity is by no means the only one. There is that infidelity of the lower and coarser grade; that which is headed and led by such men as Ingersoll in this country and Bradlaugh in England. Backed by oratory and the gifts of wit and coarse humor and satire, aided and abetted by the daily press and the multifarious news agencies, these men, at half a dollar to a dollar per head, are making infidels by the thousand. Whom they do not reach by word of mouth, they do by the press. It goes for nothing to say that Ingersoll's infidelity is ribald and unreasoning, coarse and low, even from a literary standpoint. We are to look at the facts as they are. "Ingersoll's lectures are not worth refuting," said a distinguished preacher, in my hearing not long since. Nevertheless, the appalling fact is, that, moving among the working classes and the common people generally, I find that the mass of them are already poisoned by the sentiments contained in the popular infidel lecturer's addresses. The popular mind, by sinful nature prejudiced against the truth, quickly lays hold on a criticism against the Bible, and yields it reluctantly, if at all, in favor of the refutation of that criticism. Unbelief is always eager for material upon which to feed itself; while faith is of slow growth, and is not aggressive in most people. Moreover, the infidel and the skeptic is always eager to talk and propagate his unbelief, while, as a rule, the Christian is slow to confess his faith. Not only is it rare to find a Christian in these days who boldly stands up for Christ and the truth in the ordinary walks of life, but it is common to find Christians who will hear their faith assailed without so much as showing their colors. Peter, in the kitchen of the high priest's palace and in the face of the sneering serving-maids, is by no means the only disciple who has been ashamed of his Master, even if they have not denied Him with cursing and swearing.

5. *The Sabbath holiday class.* Who can estimate the thousands in our cities, whose chief occupation on the Sabbath is to seek recreation or, rather, mere pleasure. It is not stretching the truth to say that there are two adult people found at the seaside during the hot months of the year, Sabbath after Sabbath, to every one that seeks the house of God. To them, Christ and His gospel are the farthest removed from their thoughts or desires. And, as our efforts for evangelizing the people of the cities are, in the main—indeed, almost entirely—confined to the ordinary church service on the Sabbath, these thousands and multiplied thousands of Sabbath-day pleasure-seekers are