

Christian Workers in the Methodist Church.

MY DEAR YOUNG PEOPLE:

The Church of God is a unit. In its broadest sense it takes in both heaven and earth—"One Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." It is a kingdom with its organization, its laws and its institutions. Of this kingdom neither pope nor queen is head, but Christ. "He is the head of the body, the Church; that in all things He might have the pre-eminence." The Church of Christ on earth includes within its fold all regenerate souls among men. The religious denominations, of which the one Church of Christ is composed, exists, not so much because Christian men are different, as because they *think* differently. Denominationalism is of the head, far more than of the heart. Therefore is it that as the different branches of the Church come to know each other better, to understand forms of expression, and definitions of doctrine and experience, they are drawn closer together "in the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace."

The Methodist people have largely by the self-sacrifice and labors of a former generation reached a foremost place among the religious forces of this country. This is abundantly indicated by the elaborate statistical returns made to the General Conference in September last. There is something grandly hope-inspiring in thinking of the great army of actual workers in connection with the our Church; including ministers, lay preachers, class leaders and Sabbath school teachers. There is a staff of active laborers at work every week of no less than 30,444. In addition to these there are very many earnest and active young people in our "Christian Endeavor Societies" and "Epworth Leagues," and a vast multitude of Christly men and women engaged in unostentatious and quiet ways in doing the will of God. If that kindly and beautiful saying of Dr. Chalmers were only true in our day, even to the extent that it was when he said it, how soon would the moral and religious condition of our fair Dominion be a model for all other lands. When accounting, in the presence of a large audience, for the phenomenal growth of Methodism he gave as the reason of it, "They are all at it, and always at it." Would to God that the charitable thought of the great man were true. We have church property of various kinds aggregating the enormous value of \$11,597,491. That is, to

put it in secular phrase, in carrying on our work for God, we have nearly twelve millions of money invested in "plant," and more than thirty thousand operatives. What is the result? *Not satisfactory!* This is a fast age in which men are inclined to think that the lightning is too slow and the thunder not loud enough. It is a commercial age in which men have got into the habit of asking each man, and each institution, "What have you done since I saw you last?" At the annual meetings of our banks, insurance, building, agriculture and other monetary and secular societies, they look over the situation and shape their future course according to the evident condition of things. With all our churches, our laborers, our Sunday schools, our prayer meetings, less than ten thousand converted men and women, as a net increase, added to our Church per year, is not a satisfactory result. Then "what lack we yet?" More men? More churches? More machinery? Nay, but more of Christ in our lives, and more of the Holy Ghost in our labors.

Faithfully yours,
W. H. LAIRD.

Y. P. S. C. E. Correspondence.

Edited by W. J. Hamilton.

WE are now fairly into the season when the meetings of the Societies are best attended and when the most work is done in getting new members, and in pushing along the distinctive work which each C. E. Society has adopted as its own. It is very gratifying to hear of the renewed energy with which the Societies of the city are now engaging in their work, a result, we believe largely due to the convention. We hear on all hands how a warm zeal has sprung up, how this one and the other has been reanimated, and how assuredly the work for the Master is now prosecuted with greater power, and consequently with greater success. There are now ten Societies in the city and these should wield a mighty power for good.

THE NAB Street Presbyterian Church, Y. P. S. C. E. This society is now nearly two years old and has been steadily growing in interest and numbers. It has had its share of removal of members by change of residence and etc. but is still going on we hope unto perfection, we take, as a society, a keen interest in Home and Foreign Missions and strive, according to our means, to show substantial sympathy towards these. We can