

made for any cases of poverty or sickness, or other hardships, which occur amongst its families. Indiscriminate charity is not to be commended; but there are many cases where help is needed, and many more cases where something might be done to lead im-provident or negligent families to become more provident and careful.

4. It is the duty of Christian families and congregations to try and defend their members against great social evils and vices which are inimical to their happiness and welfare. Prominent amongst these are drunkenness, gambling, and licentiousness. In every community, especially in towns and cities, these vices prevail, and destroy the best welfare of multitudes. The Christian community, if wise, will take measures to defend itself against them. Efforts should be made for the reformation of any who have become the slaves of strong drink. And members of every Christian congregation should be careful, by precept and example, to encourage the practice of temperance. It might be desirable to establish a temperance society in connection with congregations. And it would be well if places of innocent recreation could be made to take the place of the drinking saloon and the gambling room. Young people, especially, require recreation and amusement, and it is important to provide them with amusement of a healthy, invigorating kind, instead of that which is vicious and demoralizing. For this purpose the good games and good art, which are now so often associated with drunkenness, gambling and licentiousness, ought to be taken from these vicious surroundings and devoted to their legitimate purpose, that of providing healthful and innocent recreation. The Christian society ought to be able to show that there may be innocent amusement without vice, or any influence tending in the direction of vice. By bringing to bear Christian influences upon those who have become demoralized, by setting itself determinedly against vice, and by encouraging modes of healthful enjoyment in opposition to degrading ones, the Christian congregation might hope to do much to defend its members from the evil influences of the world and the devil.

5. Another feature of all Christian work is the effort to extend the blessings of the Gospel amongst others. The Christian Church is, from its very nature, a missionary Church; and the Christian congregation, which does little or nothing in the way of missionary effort, can have little life in it. In the congregation, as to the church at large, there is a home field and a foreign field for missionary effort. Within the bounds of the congregation itself there are families who practically are not Christian, and it is the

duty of the congregation to reach them in some way. And the congregation should contribute its proportion towards the carrying on of the missionary operations of the Church as a whole. In addition to the Domestic Bible-Readings referred to above, the congregation might set in operation agencies for visiting families that neglect the means of grace, for distributing tracts or other Christian literature, and for extending a welcome to strangers coming to live within the bounds of the congregation. Care should be taken not to interfere with the members of any other congregation.

In accordance with the above division of Christian work an organization, such as the following, might be adopted:—

I. This organization shall be called the Congregational Association of . . . . .

II. The objects of this Association shall be, to stimulate and assist the careful and systematic study of God's truth throughout the congregation; to promote pleasant and profitable social intercourse amongst the families of the congregation; to encourage and foster the spirit and habit of systematic benevolence, especially towards the poor and unfortunate at home and in other places; to struggle against the prevalence of vices in the community; and to assist in diffusing the blessings of the Gospel both within the bounds of the congregation and abroad.

III. The pastor of the congregation shall be *ex officio* the President of the Association, and the elders *ex officio* its Vice-Presidents. In addition to these there shall be appointed annually a Secretary, a Treasurer, and various working Committees.

IV. Any member of the congregation may become a member of the Association by enrolling his or her name upon its register; and every member is expected to contribute to its success by active efforts in forwarding the objects of the Association.

V. The congregation shall be divided into districts for the purposes of the Association.

VI. The following working Committees may be appointed annually, or other Committees to undertake other kinds of work, as may be deemed advisable:—

a. A Committee on Domestic Bible-Readings, whose duty it shall be to arrange the places and times at which Bible-Readings shall be held, and the manner in which they shall be conducted.

b. A Committee on Social Entertainments, with similar duties.

c. A Benevolence Committee, whose duties shall be to find out fitting objects of Christian charity at home or abroad, and devise means to assist them.

d. A Committee on Temperance and Social Virtue.

e. A Visitation Committee, whose duties it shall be to visit strangers and families who are irregular in their attendance upon the means of grace, or altogether neglect them, and to employ such means as seem best fitted to bring them under Christian influences.

f. A Missionary Committee to raise means to aid the Church in the extension of the Kingdom of Christ in the world.

VII. These Committees shall be composed of both male and female members, and shall divide their work as much as possible amongst the different congregational districts.

VIII. There shall be monthly meetings of the Joint-Committees for the purpose of reporting work done during the past month, and arranging for the coming month. These meetings shall be held on the . . . . . of each month, and shall be opened and closed by devotional exercises.

IX. There shall be an annual meeting of the Association on the first Tuesday of April, for the purpose of receiving a report of the past year's operations, and electing Committees for the coming year.

X. Every member of the Association shall contribute . . . . . cents per month, to defray the working expenses of the Association.