

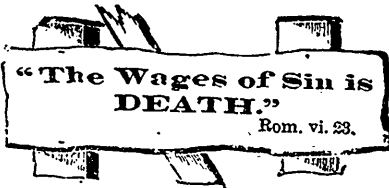
RAILROAD Y. M. C. A.



At the opening of the new railroad reading room at Rochester, N. Y., Mr. Geo. C. Buell, president of the general association said:

"The matter of the railroad work has long been under the consideration of the Young Men's Christian Association. I have had several interviews with W. H. Vanderbilt in reference to this matter, and he says: "It pays the company to endorse the work. From time to time appropriations are made to sustain the different railroad branches, for the reason that the men who frequent the rooms become far more steady and trustworthy than they otherwise would." I am informed that when the new depot is erected, a room will be set apart for the railroad men to hold their meetings in.

The New York Central railroad company has made a donation of \$600 to help defray expenses of the Rochester railroad Y. M. C. A.



MAKING UP THE TRAIN.



HERE is a good deal of labor spent about a railway train, of which ordinary travelers know nothing. They come to the station at the appointed time, find the train in readiness, step on board, and are whirled away to their destination. But long before they put in an appearance, men are engaged in "making up the train." The fires are kindled beneath the boilers, steam is got up, carriages are swept and cleaned, and then the train must be made up. An engine is upon one track, a baggage car upon another, a sleeping car upon another, a passenger car yonder; and one by one the engine must take these, backing down to where they are, shackling on to them, and drawing them out to where they *should be*, until

at length the train is ready for a start. If the engine driver should bring his engine up in front of the depot and say: "I am here ready to drag the train over the road," he would have no train to draw; but by switching and backing from car to car, he gathers together the scattered carriages and makes up his train.

In the service of God and the life of the Church there is something quite analogous to this. There are persons who are ready for service when everybody else is ready; but they do nothing towards getting ready. But if the work of God is to be carried forward, and the salvation of souls to be sought, somebody must "make up the train;" somebody must begin and do personal work. It is not enough to say: "I am ready for a start, and this is the place for starting;" but the engine must back down, not to where persons *ought to be*, but to where persons *are*. No matter where they may be, on the wrong track, or off from the track entirely, the engineer who wishes to take his train over the road, must first see to it that it is properly *made up*.

So in the cause of God there are thousands of people fitted for great usefulness if they were only "shackled on." One stands out under this shed, and another on that side track; one is here and another there; and there they stand, unless somebody takes pains to "make up the train." When the cars are ready to start there will be plenty of persons ready to ride; but who wants to engage in the preliminary work? Who wants to get the wood, and draw the water, and kindle the fires, and make up the train? Men who will do this are needed in the church to-day. Others there are who are ready, when all the hard work is done, to get on the engine, and ring the bell, and sound the whistle, and go whirling and screaming along, but they carry nobody with them, and benefit no one around them.

Christian worker, be patient, be diligent; hunt up those that are forgotten and out of the way; condescend to men of low estate; pick up those who are overlooked; make up your train, and when you have done this work patiently, carefully, persistently, then you are ready for your journey.—*The Christian*.