

day, and especially the work of some of our Y.M.C. Associations.

The crackling is great, the eyes of many are directed towards them, they are being praised (and to our mind, the thing least to be desired is the praise of men who know not God). "See our attractions," is the substance of their publications, but alas we fear that with many it is but the fable to be made fact.

But beyond this, is the evil done to other Associations. Some organizations which for years have been known as thoroughly Christian, whose whole efforts have been devoted to saving souls and in which they have been pre-eminently successful, appear to be entertaining the notion that the "old-fashioned ways" are *slow*. "The times are altered you know." "Young men *must* be entertained." "Our attractions are not brilliant enough," and so they are now looking round to find a Gymnasium thorn, or a Rambling Club thorn, or some other kind of a thorn to throw on to the fire. Well, we suppose this will blaze up a little, but we know of instances where some of these thorns have been used, and they have not only gone out, but have left so many worthless ashes over the original fire that it will take some time to let sufficient draught reach the good, old substantial back log which was almost forgotten while the *crackling nothings* were attracting attention.

But after all, it may be that these special *efforts* to win young men (?) may be helpful. Who can say anything against it when we have the *convincing* proof given us that in one Association, a *great work* has been done by its Gymnasium. A man has reduced his weight by some 34 pounds in six weeks! through his attendance at its classes, and as the record is given, "is now a better looking, healthier and happier man," and as the Gymnasiums are intended to be helpful in our work of saving souls, it probably was forgotten to say that this man will now be better able to "receive the engrafted word" and "enter into the Kingdom of Heaven." We may not properly understand these matters, but in our ignorance we venture to suggest that the same amount of exertion put forth in sawing a few cords of wood for a widow, might have helped to reduce the corpulency; at all events it would

be less expensive, and more like *Christian work*.

In this article we wish to take exception to a clause in the Annual Report of one of our Canadian Secretaries, wherein he refers to the necessity for Amusements, and adds that in confining our work to the Religious department we have departed from the intention of the founders of the work.

This clause gives evidence of ignorance as to the early history of these Associations. Referring to vol. 1 of Exeter Hall Lectures, we find a History of the London, Eng., Y.M.C.A. the (so-called) Parent Association. At pages 39-41 will be seen how the work was born of prayer and that on 6th June, 1844, at 72 St. Paul's Churchyard, was formed the "Society for improving the SPIRITUAL condition of Young Men engaged in the Drapery and other Trades." The name of Young Men's Christian Association was adopted. I also read at page 42 "The *services which the Y.M.C.A. is established to promote are chiefly prayer meetings, and wherever practicable, Bible classes.*" Again, "The Committee soon learned that *truth which has been to them a sheet anchor in their subsequent career.*" "In quietness and in confidence shall be thy strength. NO ATTEMPTS WERE MADE TO POPULARIZE THE ASSOCIATION. It was felt by the members that they were called to engage in a *spiritual work*—a warfare with powers of evil and darkness, AGAINST WHOM NO CARNAL WEAPONS COULD BE USED WITH SUCCESS, an enterprise which was at once the expression of their loyalty to Christ, and their sympathy in His love for souls, and in which they needed alike His sovereign direction and His sustaining power and grace, *but needed these only.* Propositions of aid made to them at this time, and by which their field of labor might have been largely increased, were postponed, *in order that attention might be concentrated upon one object—the conversion of souls to God.*"

In reading these extracts we admit there has been a departure from the original design of these Associations. We deeply regret it. We can but manifest our regret by seeking out the *old way*, and continuing therein. "No more thorns used here," would be a good motto to adopt for our Buildings and Rooms.