

The next question is "How can you enlist the sympathy of the church in special services?" One good way is to call the officers of the church together at a private meeting, and pray and talk with them. Then call the young men together and appeal to them as fathers, call the mothers together, and I think that is the best of all. I have never failed in my life when the mothers got together and prayed. In 1874 I was asked to go to Cambridge, and I declined. I had had no university education, not even a common education, and I felt as if I had no call in with to go there. But I afterwards felt sorry I had not gone, and I pledged myself that if I ever got another invitation I would go. At length a great long petition came, and so she went to Cambridge, and spent there three of the darkest days I ever spent in my life. For the first time in my life the audience tried to break up the meeting. For eight whole hour everything said or done was turned into ridicule. I asked one of the professors to pray and the undergraduates applauded his prayer. I asked Mr. Sankey to sing the "Ninety and Nine," and they applauded every line of it. Then I got up and preached, and at every sentence there was a yell. They tried to break up the meeting. The next night was just as dark, and the next one darker. On Wednesday I got fifty mothers and they seemed to just pierce Heaven with their prayers. That night, in response to my invitation, fifty-four men sprang up the tide began to turn, and I believe that was in answer to the prayers of those mothers. At that night several of the undergraduates, including some of the ringleaders, came into the enquiry room. It is not preaching which is to reach the people after all. It is the power of God and that will come in answer to the prayer. Every minister here may have blessed work in this church if he will try. Get the mothers of your church together, and then call your elders and the officers of your Sunday Schools together, get them to pray, and in answer to prayer there will come a blessing. There will come streams of salvation. Let us pray here to-day, and that there may be streams of salvation breaking out all over the country, and that it may spread across into the States and England; that there may be a fire kindled in this Convention that shall go round the world. Let us work and pray, and expect great things.

Another question "Is it a wise plan to ask people in our prayer meetings to give way once in a while to new voices?"

I have done that for years. I have often asked those who frequently take part just to keep still and give others for the chance. There is no one who would not be glad to do that. They like to hear the voice of strangers. I would see some of these strangers before hand, and get them to pledge to take part in these meetings, to read us some portion of the Scriptures or give us some word of cheer and encouragement.

The next question is—"Do you approve of young converts being set at work at once?" Certainly. It is a great mistake for the Church not to re-use young converts at work. The officers of the Church should find something for them to do, and show them how to do it. Young converts may do a great deal of good in the Sabbath School. If you have not got a class of young men, let him go out on the streets and gather them in. He will make a stronger Christian if he is set to work at once. It is a great mistake to keep the young people in the Church before they are set to work. The strongest impulse of a convert is to reach some one else. He has more influence with his friends just then than he will afterwards, because his voice is like the voice of one raised from the dead. The people will say,

"Why, he has been converted, there is something in it. It must be a good thing." Set the young convert after some one else, and after the street children, and show them the way into Christ's kingdom.

The next question is—"What is the best plan of keeping the older boys in the Sabbath Schools?"

It is a sad sight, he said, to see the boys from fifteen to twenty-three years old who are not in our churches. The trouble is they are not looked after. A boy goes into the high school or the college. He finds out that he knows more than his Sunday School teacher, he drops out and there is no one to look after him. It seems to me that the ministers and officers of the Church should get together and discuss this work of looking after the boys, and keeping them from harm. It is the most important age, the age at which character is being formed. If a boy is lost at that age, there is very little chance of his ever coming back. There are a good many mothers mourning over sons who went away at that age. It is the most critical time—a time when the Churches should be on the look out to keep them from wandering. Let the teacher give time and soul to the work, and spend a little money, if necessary. Have the boys round to your house, take them off to an excursion in the summer. Many of them feel that you are their friend, that you take an interest in them. In 1867 a young man in London, England, took a house in Seven Dials, and furnished it at his own expense. Every night he was on the streets, looking for the little Arabs who hid in the crossings and doorways until kicked and awakened and ordered away by the policeman. He spent his nights from eleven until three hunting for these boys, took them to his house, gave them a good bath and a clean bed, and in the morning he would say to them, "If you would like to stay here, if you would like to learn a trade and get a good education, I am your friend." It seemed to me that this was about as near the work of Jesus as anything I had seen. When I went back in 1872 I found the work had grown wonderfully. When I preached a hundred of the young men thus trained came to my meetings with their Bibles better marked than mine. During my last visit to England it was my privilege to be in that man's house for six months. He has now eight thousand young men from sixteen to twenty-three years of age. If a young man would so improve his writing, or polish up his mathematics, or get a lecture on any subject, these things are provided for him; if he wants to improve himself in his trade, there are masters to teach him. Well, the Church is not doing its duty by the boys. I would like to bring an indictment against the Church for its neglect of the boys. In one of our cities I tried to get a citizen interested in the young ones, and help us to put up a building. He said, "Moody, I think you are just a little fanatical about the young men. I think we are doing plenty for them." I said, "Where do you suppose our young men spend their evenings?" He said he did not know. Probably a large proportion of them were in our churches, as in any other city. On Sabbath night we went around to the churches, and in that city of 300,000 people, there were not five hundred in the whole of them. In an adjoining city we counted 1,400 young men going into one saloon on one Sunday. I hope these boys from fifteen to twenty-three are looked after in Canada. But if not are you not guilty? Are you not responsible? I do not know what will become of our Church if she does not take hold of this matter.

"How would you deal with an enquirer that you cannot make see the light?"

I do not suppose anyone but the Holy Spirit can make