

Christian Work.

DESTRUCTION OF WICKED BOOKS.

[It seems, at first sight, strange to introduce the following report by Anthony Comstock as a report of Christian work. The report, delivered before the Chatauqua Assembly, deals with an agency that is purely destructive; but this destructive work is as noble and needed a work as is done to-day in America. Let parents, pastors, and teachers ponder well the facts here stated, and let them be impressed also with the facts that cannot be stated, as showing the dangers that surround our young.—Ed. C. C. M.]

IT is a difficult subject (said Mr. Comstock) to deal with, especially in an audience of this kind. There are many parts of this work and many points that I cannot even touch upon,—scarcely refer to, or even hint at. Yet there are other features of it that to me, and to those who have looked into it, have made it seem a subject of national importance, and a national work. The object of our society is, in fine, to preserve the purity of the minds of the youth. It is to prevent the mind of the children from being poisoned and debauched. There are evils existing in this community, aye, there are evils which have been traced into the best schools, the best seminaries, the best homes of this country, that you would shudder at were you to know the facts,—evils that are carried there stealthily. The United States Mail is to-day one of the greatest and most powerful agencies in carrying into those homes, and scattering among the children of this country these vile publications that cannot fail to injure, debase, and destroy. There have been arrested 287 persons down to the present time. There have been in round numbers of obscene publications, books, pictures, etc., over twenty tons weight of matter seized and destroyed through the agency of this society. Of the bound books alone, ready to be circulated, there have been 21,141 pounds seized. Of the pictures alone there have been over 202,000 destroyed. Then of another kind of pictures, placed in watch charms and knife-handles, there have been over 7,500 seized, and of negatives there have been over 1,700 seized. There have been over seven tons of stereotyped plates for printing books destroyed that no gentleman here would pass even to another gentleman except for a matter of information, or to draw forth some word of condemnation upon the men who sell them. There have been seized 235,000 circulars, and then besides thousands of letters have been seized in the possession of