

of the Y. M. C. A., the International Conference of the W. C. T. U. in London, and the annual gatherings of the Epworth League, and many other great organizations, emphasize the fact that this is preeminently the age of lay activity. The revival of 1858, originating in the Fulton Street Daily Prayer Meeting, gave the movement its inspiration and impulse. But who could have dreamed that such world-wide movements and so many world-encircling organizations would originate in the prayers of those laymen? Wisely directed and completely utilized, these organized energies are now powerful enough to push the work of the church for the world to a speedy completion. The problem of the day for the church and the ministry is: How shall they be most wisely directed and utilized?

#### The Secret of the Salvation Army.

WHAT is the secret of the wonderful power of the Salvation Army in reaching the masses? This is a question often and of late quite respectfully asked. Its military organization is certainly one element of power. Observation has, however, convinced us that the real spiritual power of the Army comes from the close adherence of its workers and talkers to the great saving truths of the Gospel. They present the facts and doctrines of man's lost condition and of salvation by the cross of Christ, with a directness, force, and fervor that would have done honor to a Methodist of the primitive days. We are satisfied that the secret of power lies just here, the other things being mainly incidental. The Church at large may well learn a lesson from them as it is asking: *How shall we reach the masses?* They have never been reached in any other way than by the old Gospel preached with "blood earnestness," to which Dr. Chalmers called attention as an essential in the preaching that is to save men.

#### A New Era of Revivals.

It can not have escaped any careful observer that there is at present a very widespread anticipation of a great religious awakening in the church, in the near future. The increase of revivalists and of revival campaigns, the immense and world-wide activities of the Salvation Army, the Y. M. C. A. and Y. P. S. C. E., and of many other organizations, all point in this direction. Is it not a time when every minister should be on the alert to catch, if may be, the Divine indications of duty in "the signs of the times"?

#### No Text-Book for Bible Study.

DR. GRAY in "Camp-Fire Musings," in *The Interior*, calls attention to the fact that there is no suitable text-book for the study of the Bible. The article in *Harper's Magazine*, "Early in the Present Year," by Charles Dudley Warner, calling attention to the supreme place the Bible holds in literature and to the ignorance of it that now prevails among educated people, has doubtless awakened much interest. It ought to produce fruit in the preparation of such a text-book and the introduction of it into all our higher schools.

#### Enforcement of Law.

THE public seem to be waking up to the sacredness of law and the necessity for its enforcement. Mr. Theodore B. Roosevelt's work in New York city, in closing the saloons on Sunday just now, furnishes a good text and a grand opportunity for the ministry to emphasize the sacredness of law, both divine and human, and to rouse and quicken the public conscience.

A DEFINITE impression of divine things is a lie always and necessarily.  
—Parkhurst.