

## RESPONSIBILITY.



OD says "WHEN thou buildest a new house, THEN *thou* shalt make a battlement for thy roof, that thou bring not blood upon thine house if any man fall from thence." Deut. 22: 8.

That the Railroad enterprise of to-day constitute an immense new edifice, having on its roof tens of thousands of precious lives perpetually exposed to great danger, is a fact that all admit;—that thousands annually fall therefrom, and lose their lives, entailing untold distress on widows, mothers, and fatherless children, no one will attempt to deny.

That a large proportion of these are ushered into the presence of the "Judge of all the earth" without a moments warning, unprepared for eternity, and laid in the grave without any hope of a blessed resurrection, are stern facts that some one has to deal with, and for which the erectors of this house are upon the authcrity of God's word, responsible.

Not only are these men in continual danger, but are also deprived of many social and religious privileges while running this establishment for the public weal. Think of it,—800,000 men liable at any moment to be hurled (in the majority of cases) unprepared out of time into eternity. Now can nothing be done? Is no one responsible? Listen to what Mr. Dan P. Eels, of Cleveland, said at the International Convention of Y. M. C. A., in reference to Railroad men, and the effort to erect a battlement for their salvation. He is a railroad magnate himself, and his words should be heeded.

"Where is the limit of this obligation? My friends are my neighbors; those to whom I am under obligations are my neighbors. Our Saviour said the man who falls among thieves is your neighbor, it makes no difference what his circumstances are, if he falls among thieves he is your neighbor. The obligation is to stretch out your hand to care and provide for him."

The railroad men are those to whom you commit your lives and your property.

They stand at the very helm of all the conveyances, of all the ships, to which you commit your business. If the railroads should stop, business and everything would stop. These men should be Christian men. They should be men with the fear of God—they should be men that you could trust. How can you make them so? Some say, give them libraries! Some say educate them, so I say, too. This is what we can do, but it is not enough; we must give them the same privileges that we enjoy ourselves. Where you only minister to their earthly comfort you have gone a good way, but not far enough—you must reach their hearts. The body is more than the raiment—the soul is more than the body it inhabits; for it contains all that is moral and intellectual. You may administer to their comfort, you may administer to their taste and to their ambition, but it is not enough until you reach their hearts, and provide for their immortal necessities. This is where this association is doing so much. It is not ten years since this great work, which has the indorsement of all the best railroad men—yea, all of them—it is not ten years since its work commenced in this great city.

We must do for these men as we do for ourselves as far as we can. We must not cease until the measure of the obligation as laid down in the Scripture is reached. There I think is where the great work of this association is to terminate, and only there, when that end is accomplished.

I rejoice in this work that has been inaugurated for the railroad men. It seems to be the practical idea in Christian life. To young men seems to belong the practical work of carrying the Gospel just where it is wanted for the poor."

There is no section of the community that can stand aloof from this work—all are interested therein, for every one is benefited by this greatest nineteenth century enterprise. The companies, where this work is most successfully carried on, recognize that every dollar expended thereon is more than returned in rolling stock. it pays, no matter how it is viewed, and the expense of the "Battlement" the life protector of which God speaks should