

people should at this age, if not before, give themselves to God.

There is naturally raised just here, the relation of this period of disturbance to earlier Christian training and to a child's profession of Christian faith. As a believer in early piety, in boys of eight and ten years being true Christians and eligible for Church membership; and further, in children nurtured in the admonition of the Lord never knowing the beginnings of their loving faith in Christ, I must seriously consider the entrance of the young Christian upon this troublous time. Concerning this it may be said that the eruptive time comes both to the lad Christian as well as to the lad thoughtless. He begins to criticise himself and all things. Hitherto his religion has been based on imitation and taken on authority. He has trustfully accepted the dictum and religious forms of parent and Church, and nourished himself in their atmosphere of faith. But now rushes on the era of questioning, and authority and beliefs and ceremonies, yea, and his own soul-life are impaled on an interrogation mark. Along with this comes the natural breaking away from the proprieties of child-life, its habits of Bible reading, Sunday school and church attendance, its demure and feminine attitude towards the established order of things. This movement, weak or strong as it may be, is inevitable. It is the growing man within the boy seeking the man's footing for the man's faith.

The Christian boy will come safely through into Christian manhood if, for one thing, the habits of his religious life have been strengthened in him as a child. An intelligent acquaintance with the Bible, the practice of prayer and attachment to the Christian services, form a strong boat to carry the soul through the surf. Another aid is a warm, friendly atmosphere of older Christians. At this time we should cease to be exacting and discount any sceptical talk, and be lenient with aberrations of conduct. A benediction on the man or woman who will take time to explain and affectionately assist in the difficulties of this period, and assure the troubled one that the Saviour of his childhood is his Saviour still.

The second striking feature of adolescence is the *development of the social instinct*. Fourteen-year-old is a social animal. They run in flocks and droves, they