

THE ENDEAVOR MOVEMENT AND THE CHURCH.

THE fourteenth international convention of the society of Christian Endeavor met in the city of Boston during the past summer. It was a vast and in many respects an unique assemblage. According to newspaper accounts there were met in convention over fifty thousand delegates, representing every province, state and territory from Alaska to Florida, and from Newfoundland to Southern California. Among them were to be found adherents of every evangelical denomination: men and women who represented every shade of doctrine but who in all their diversity of creeds found that they were in the possession of one common essential faith. The convention was a landmark in the history of a most successful organization while at the same time it furnished unmistakable proof of a growing catholicity of the churches. We are accustomed to hear the foes of Protestantism refer to the Reformed churches as a loosely bound federation of envious, quarrelsome factions. It is only necessary to point to the recent convention as showing that below all apparent divisions there exists between believers the cemented bond of a deep spiritual union.

Very phenomenal has been the growth of this giant movement among the churches. Its founder,

and those who with him rocked the cradle of its early existence are still living and can scarcely be called old men. It attained a wonderful success because it was wonderfully adapted to draw into active service a piety and fervour that too long had lain latent in the church. Then it was a movement of young people and has in it the energy and hopefulness of youth. Should such a misfortune overtake it as that it shall make only a short-lived outgrowth of the spiritual life of our generation, it will pass to its place in history surrounded by a halo of peculiar interest. Its friends expect much good to result from its influence. Some have gone so far to assert that it shall supersede the church as the instrumentality which in God's hand shall change and regenerate the world.

What is its future to be? Well wishers of Zion are asking that question, with earnestness and with some measure of anxiety. Shall it always retain its present form and take its place among the evangelistic forces in the world quite independent of the churches? This is a most pertinent question in view of its present influence and importance among the Protestant denominations. Nominally it is "for the church" as in truth it should be for what our age calls for is not a dif-