

charitable character, for which the city of New York is famous.

One of the noblest of these is situated on the corner of 4th Avenue and 23rd Street, and is the "Young Men's Christian Association of the city of New York." The building is a magnificent stone structure, and occupies eighty-six feet on the Fourth Avenue, and no less than 175 feet on 23rd Street. Simply on account of its architectural beauty, and apart altogether from the noble work carried on within its walls, the building is well worth a visit. A course of lectures is given every winter under the auspices of the Association and for its benefit. I saw the programme for the ensuing course, and observed the names of many of the most celebrated preachers of the city. In the reading rooms I found the leading papers from all the different countries in the world. The library is large and beautifully fitted up, and the number of volumes is rapidly increasing. In the upper stories of the building there are about forty class rooms, lecture rooms and studios. In some of these, classes meet every evening for the study of music, painting, sculpture, and drawing, and other branches of art and science. By the kindness of the reception committee we were shown through the principal rooms. Everything in connection with the Institution seemed to indicate a wonderful degree of prosperity, every part being finished in the most beautiful manner. In the Gymnasium and Bowling Alley we found a number of young men in the height of enjoyment. Others were in the Library poring over the treasures of literature, and many more were tracing the events of the day in the numerous papers piled along the desks of the Reading Room. It was a perfect treat to look upon the faces of those young men. They seemed to have thrown off all care and worry of business. They seemed to feel the inspiration of the place. They were in a palace, and felt it became them to act like princes. All that beautiful expenditure of art—the rich paintings on the walls, the frescoed ceilings, the massive furniture, the bright lights, and cheerful happy home-like look about everything, lent a wonderful charm to those youthful hearts, and no doubt is the means, perhaps insensibly, of imparting a refine-

ment to their whole character and conduct. Then each is made to feel that the Institution is his. He is part and parcel of it. It is his club, where he can go to spend his leisure hours in a sumptuous home. He can take his bath, read the news of the world, enjoy the richest music, admire and study the works of the best artists, with Brussels carpet beneath his feet, richly frescoed ceiling over him, and the costliest furniture around him. Who could be rough and boorish under the influence of such civilizing powers as these? Then there is also much to admire in the management of the establishment. There seem to be committees for everything. Their name is legion. On entering we were met by the reception committee. My kind friend introduced me as a visitor from New Brunswick, and I received a hearty welcome. Mr. McBurney was one of the enquirers, and sent greetings to several of the brethren in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Among the active committees is one for visiting the sick. On several of the pillars in the reception room are placed little boxes with a small slit in the cover to receive letters or cards. If one is a stranger in sickness or distress, he can send his address on a card or in a note to be dropped into one of these boxes, on which the words "Committee for Visiting Sick" is printed. The gentlemen of this committee open the box daily, and on finding the sick man's appeal they speedily repair to his bedside and afford him all the relief that Christian hospitality can suggest. Several young physicians belong to the Association, and one of them is ready at any time to second the efforts of the visiting committee in the relief of the sick. Then also there is a Committee for providing suitable boarding houses for young men who come as strangers to the city. The Committee make it their duty to know the boarding house and its landlady, so as to be able to speak with confidence about them. This Committee are now maturing plans for supplying meals at a cheaper rate to the members of the Association than they can get them at hotels or restaurants. They will no doubt succeed, and thus a great additional boon will be conferred on many young men, who, at the present extravagant prices, must find it hard to make