

*feature of our work*, remembering that we are an association and not a church; and while in our work we are in some respects equal, we are one step below the platform upon which God's Church is laid, but a powerful aid or auxiliary to her and her faithful ministry. While you may not have taken any special exception to what you have heard thus far, methinks I hear some good brother ask, Is not there reason to fear that the social feature will occupy too prominent a place in our Association routine to the comparative dearth or death of religious interest?

Yes, we answer: it is a matter that requires careful and prayerful wisdom in detail and arrangement, but in your zeal to jealously guard other interests, have great care that you do not take from this attractive and positively necessary and delightful auxiliary, the power and influence it ought, should, and does wield. Another questioner anxiously desirous to comprehend this matter, asks, "What do you understand from the question asked in the topic now under discussion? Does it simply refer to gatherings such as socials (so called) composed of young men and occasionally of a more public character when ladies are invited?"

Yes, it means that, and vastly more. Association influences should be such that the very appearance of each apartment would suggest to the young men and visiting stranger that the social life is there known and fully appreciated,

Have you a Reception or Social room in your Association? If not, arrange to have one. If you have such a room, how is it furnished? Long settees, straight back chairs placed in rows and arranged as for a funeral service? Or, is your social room comparatively or well furnished and still the abode of disorder and dust? If so, rid yourselves of these retrogressive influences, and wonder no longer why the young men do not go there to spend their evenings. Make every arrangement for their comfort as you would do in your own home: provide the brightest and best light, home-like attractions, and plenty of fresh air. When the young men and strangers visit your rooms receive and welcome them as you would extend the courtesies of home life; show cold formality the door and let the social element prevail, and at times, especially on social and reception occasions, while everything being bright and enjoyable and happiness everywhere abounding, let the calm loving influence of Him whom we serve be felt like a summer breeze, making our pleasure more real because of the presence of the Master.

Another questioner arises to say, "We can easily see and understand the necessity for the social element in Association work, but do not so fully comprehend the nature or form that should be adopted and followed. What would you suggest from