

undertake for them, and by a public profession of faith enter into full communion, goes almost without saying. It is both their duty and privilege. Indeed it is a part of their mission in the church. But even before they have been brought to see this, their activities should be drawn out in the church, for they are members of the church.

What a glorious period youth is! How full of hope, vigor, zeal, enthusiasm, life! Youth must be active in some sphere. Let that activity be largely and properly directed to the advancement of the true interests of the church, and how soon would there come a transformation—how soon would the desert of church coldness, deadness and indifference rejoice and blossom as a rose! The church stands more in need of the active service of the young people within her own borders to-day than of any other human agency. The youth are the hope of the church. What they make her she shall be in the next generation, perchance during the next century. They can make her strong or powerless as they choose. All eyes turned to the babe of Bethlehem, to the youth of Nazareth, nineteen hundred years ago. Is it too much to say that all eyes turn to the young people of the church to-day? To some considerable extent they are awakening to the importance of the situation. But will they fulfil their mission to completeness? Will they come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty with all their powers? Theirs is indeed a great work, a Christlike mission.

It is no new thing that the freshest and the best is required in the Lord's service. The first of the first-fruits of the land in every harvest, under the old economy, was for the service of the Lord in his own house. The first-born, both of man and beast, he claimed for himself. If the king of Babylon would have those only to stand before him who were young, well-favored, without blemish, and possessed of great ability, shall the King of kings have none in his service but those who have passed the stage of youth, have entered mid-life, perchance have grown old? Surely he demands the freshest part of our lives—the service of our youth, as well as that of our maturer years. That church that neglects to