

outside the college; the Association, however, considers the students' its largest field.

It has been due to the Association, rather than to any other force, that the centres of learning are now the most Christian communities in Canada and the United States. Taken as a whole there is not more than one young man in twelve who is a Christian. Inside college walls, however, one man in every two is a Christian. Twenty-five years ago about one-third of the students were Church members; in 1902 fifty-two per cent. of the students were Church members, and this percentage is rapidly increasing. This condition of affairs has been largely brought about by organized personal work of the students themselves among their companions.

Working positively rather than negatively, the Association has proved a steadying stimulating influence in that critical period of a young man's life when his faith is most severely tested and he himself is subjected to the greatest moral perils. It has strengthened the moral tone of our colleges and has purified student life of many of its former sins and vices.

The Association is more than a society for meeting religious needs; it is a training school. In the process of cultivating moral and religious life it trains men in methods of Christian helpfulness. The Association takes young men at an age and in an occupation when the Church is most apt to lose them and sends them back a few years later to do more systematic and aggressive work than ever. It develops their power of initiative, calls forth their executive ability, and familiarizes them with the most approved methods of individual and associated Christian work. It helps them to form right habits of prayer. It emphasizes Bible study and religious meditation, thus affording them a training not provided in the curriculum or, to any such degree, by other religious influences or student organizations.

Perhaps most of all has the Association's influence been felt in determining for students the form and field of their life-work. It aims to bring every Christian student face to face with the supreme question as to where he can place his life so as to be of most service to God and to his generation. The result is Christian lawyers, doctors, teachers, business men—a vast lay force silently working in the interests of the Church. It has influenced a large number of men to continue on graduation in aggressive religious work and to enter the ministry.

The foreign work of the Y.M.C.A. has, to a large extent, been led and developed by college Association men. This is a very extensive and important service as may be seen when we consider that it concerns the religious welfare of two-thirds of the young men of the human race.

In the Student Volunteer Movement the Church has been given a recruiting agency which has never been equalled. This was at first an independent work, but it has now become an important branch in Student Y.M.C.A. activity. During the last sixteen years this Association has sent 2,000 men to foreign fields.

But, above all things, the Y.M.C.A. has had a great unifying influence. It is a promoter of

democratic spirit. By organizing religious forces, it is now presenting a common front to fight evil. It has done more than any other agency towards the development of intercollegiate consciousness and spirit and is at present exerting a tremendous influence towards the confederation of the Church.



WATCHMAN, WHAT OF THE NIGHT?

By Chas. E. Stewart

(Editor Bobcaygeon Independent)

In the hands of the young men, more to-day than ever before, lies the social and national welfare of the country. In the past the leading positions of responsibility and trust have been reserved to men of advanced age, but to-day, particularly upon this continent, the young man is noticeably to the fore, in the professions, and in every line of business pursuit. This condition is due, perhaps, to the demands of a new country, requiring as it does the strenuous activity, and vital forces of youth, to develop and fashion the mighty sources of nature's abundant gifts to the uses and advantages of mankind. In the old world, where everything has long since been done, and nothing is left but to sit tight and touch the buttons, youth has to patiently wait its turn till age softly and smoothly glides into decay, leaving room for the grey-haired procession along the path of honor to take one slow and even pace forward. In this vast country, everything has to be done, youth knows no barrier, and boundless opportunities await the vitalizing impulse of intellectual energy. This is the young man's country. In the old world place goes by honor, in the new world place goes by push. There, however, is the rub. If honor is cast aside by push, what will the country be, what will be our social condition? Grave responsibilities devolve upon the young men of to-day. In the character of the young man, is the character of the nation. Then it may be asked, especially at this particular season, Watchman, what of the Night? Is the moral fibre, the inborn sense of honor of such potency as will properly govern the safety valve of youth's impulsive vigor? Of intellect, of talent, of capability, the youth of Canada has an abundance. This country will never have occasion to blush on that score, and it will indeed be to the glory of our nation if the leaven of honor, truth, and integrity, diffused through society from our highest seats of learning and culture, is sufficient to withstand the terrific temptations that are offered where such rich temptations abound. It needs but very slight knowledge of public affairs to see that this country is urgently in need of iron in its moral backbone. Look where you will, instances are painfully noticeable of a limberness in that backbone. This must not exist if Canada is to hold the honored place which every good citizen must desire. Some nineteen hundred years ago, the broad rules of good citizenship were established, and it is those simple, plain, broad rules that the young man of to-day must zealously practice every moment of his strenuous life, for the credit of the source of his educational training, and the honor of his country.