

The Appeal of the Church to the Young Man.

[BY WILLIAM SCOTT, B. A.]

The Young People's Societies of Vancouver have launched a Church Membership Campaign, the aim of which will be to bring the claims of the Christian Church before as many as possible of our young people who at the present time are not members of the Church. We feel that many young men and women are lost to the Church simply because they have never had the question of church membership presented to them personally and individually. Even our Young People's Societies, which exist for the definite purpose of giving our young men and women scope for Christian activity, do not always emphasize the importance of Church connection, with its definite decision for Jesus Christ. It is in an effort to prevent such a loss of her young people that the Membership campaign has been begun.

That there is a great loss of young people sustained by the churches every year needs no argument. Additions should come to the Church from Sunday School, Young People's Societies, and other organizations of the Church. Additions should also come from the vast numbers of immigrants who yearly arrive in Canada. Yet we know there is a great leakage. We do not get as many of those who yearly leave the Sunday Schools as we ought to get. It is questionable if we get more than twenty-five per cent. of the new-comers. And of those who join our Young People's Societies, not more than fifty per cent. are church members. Such, at any rate, is the report of our own Presbyterian Blue Book; in 1912 our Young People's Societies numbered 33,000 members, yet of these only 16,000 were church members.

Now, if Jesus and His apostles regarded the establishment of a church as one of the great and necessary factors in Christian progress; and if Christian men and women, throughout the history of the Church, have found strength and inspiration in union with it, why do we not find more of our young men and women there, and why do we not press Church membership more forcibly? These are the questions that have stirred the Young People's Societies to undertake a campaign to increase the membership of their respective churches. Three classes of persons will be approached: 1.—Those who were members of the Church in other places, but have never joined the Church in this city; 2.—Those who are leading a Christian life, and favor the Christian Church; 3.—Those who have never yet faced the issue of their moral and religious life, and do not definitely stand for Christ and Christian progress.