

I was won to Christ, and in due time became a church member. At this point came a change, that surprised and pained me. I seemed to have lost at once the place I had held in my friend's heart. He rarely speaks to me now, though I feel, more than ever, the need of christian counsel and help.

Our duty to young christians, is a duty sadly neglected. They are left to themselves, and then, when they do ill, we profess grave surprise that they should so soon fall away. The fault is largely ours. We forget that God honors the use of the appropriate means in training the converted, as much as in winning the unconverted.

The new life, like all life, begins in weakness. It needs to be mothered. Babies in Christ, is the New Testament representation of the case. The youthful disciple would be spared much painful perplexity, should experienced christians impart kindly counsel. Instructions is called for in right and wise methods of Bible study. The special perils of the way need to be faithfully pointed out. The common mistakes into which young christians fall are to be corrected. Often should they be reminded of their dependence upon Christ, without whom they "can do nothing"; and when, disturbed with anxious thought, concealing growth in grace, they are to be told that growth is best and surest attained, not by painfully trying to grow, but by simply abiding in Christ, and faithfully doing his will, for "who, by taking thought can add one cubit to his stature." Let them be taught the principles of New Testament morality. Point out that any divorce between spirituality and morality has no section in the teachings of the Gospel, and that when a truth is so held as to relax the grasp upon integrity and honesty in the common affairs of life, that truth is being wrongly held.

The deacon was suspicious as to the orthodoxy of his minister's views. At last he said, "I hear sir, that you oppose the perseverance of the saints." "No sir," said the minister, "not I, indeed, its perseverance of the sinners I oppose." "But, see here, don't you believe a christian can fall very far in sin, and yet be saved?" "Well," said the minister, "I think it is a very dangerous experiment for any christian to try." "A dangerous experiment," let the young Christian be taught to look at sin in that way.

The zealous example of his pastor and brethren, is of supreme importance in the spiritual education of the convert. Let Jesus be preached by word and deed as a living force in life, and the lives we seek to help will feel the contagion of health. "It is astonishing," said one, "how much goodness, goodness makes." Personal instruction and encouragement, carried even to the point of spending two or three weeks at a time in prayerful effort on behalf of individuals, will find its reward. I am convinced that the principle involved in the Methodist system of class meetings, with class leaders, is sound and fruitful. It is a step in the right direction when the judicious and spiritually minded members in our churches are led to feel a special responsibility for the well being and well doing of young christians. We dread too much machinery, and a cast iron system. It may be useful to temper that dread by recalling the Prophet's vision of the wheels, wheels within wheels, an intricate, complicate system of wheels, but all revolving to effective purpose, because the spirit of the living creature was within the wheels.

The end we should have in view in all that is done for the young christian, is to help him to become an efficient worker for Christ. We help him most wisely, when we help him to ripeness of principle, to assured strength of christian character. The rich provisions of grace are to the end, that we may "attain unto the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a full-grown man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, that we may be no longer children." And St. Paul avows this aim, when he says, "We admonish every man, and teach every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ." Heaven is not to be peopled with a race of moral imbeciles. The reward of the crown of life is "to him that overcometh." In this line of making "good soldiers of Jesus Christ" of these recruits, we should certainly, for one thing, seek to inspire in them, a large-hearted intelligent interest in our denominational work. "When one is only a 'family man' he may have a sound nature, but it will not be a large or generous one." A like observation holds true of any christian, whose interests are all local, whose sympathies do not extend beyond the church of which he is a member. "They say in England, that the books which record the deeds and darings of British naval heroes have done more than anything else to man the ships of that country and to develop youthful enthusiasm for a sea-faring life." Familiarize the minds of young christians, by all the means within our reach, with the lives and work of our hero martyrs and missionaries, and with the facts of our denominational history, full, as they are, of