

lectual culture and Christian work." Such an organization should be under the direction, supervision and control of the Church with which identified. The Young People's Society, like the Sabbath School, should be an actual department in the Church, and exist for the promotion of its spiritual work. If this vital connection is to be realized, it is necessary that certain essential and fundamental principles should be definitely formulated, and all the members made to feel that the organization stands for these. As a guarantee of this living union, and a protection of the Church against possible perversion of her aims, the membership should be required to pledge themselves to the performance of certain definite duties. If the Young People's Society is to be recognized, like the Sabbath School, as a corporate part of the Church, then there should be in the former as in the latter, an assurance as to the character, work and teaching of the Society. As the doctrinal standards of the Church are safeguarded in the Sabbath School by authorized catechism definitions, so the genuineness and loyalty of the Young People's Society should be guaranteed by positive pledges formulated by the denomination with which incorporated. Nor should the pledges be mere "models" to be modified by each society, any more than the definitions of the catechisms should be models "strongly recommended for adoption." For the sake of uniformity, safety and unity in each denomination, its highest ecclesiastical court should adopt and promulgate fixed pledges for the use of all who wish to affiliate with the officially recognized Young People's Society of the Church. Pledges provided by an organization outside the denominations must of necessity be only models, "to be regarded in the light of a recommendation," but the particular Church has a definite responsibility to her young people that ought to be unequivocally performed.

The "backbone" of the Society of Christian Endeavor and of the Epworth League is the pledge. It is a solemn league and covenant by the members for the performance of clearly defined Christian duties. It is a cardinal principle in these organizations and "essential and fundamental" in their working. Membership is based upon the taking of the pledge, and