

RAILROAD Y. M. C. A.

What Mr. W. R. DAVENPORT, President of the International R. R. Men's Christian Convention, said at Cleveland Convention, on May 26, 1881, about the progress, importance and pressing character of this work.



FEW years ago the matter of the work of the Y. M. C. A. among railroad men was a new thing. We had a Convention here in Cleveland. It was a matter of astonishment to some of the substantial business men of Cleveland that they had never thought of this thing before. The new has got rubbed off since then. It is no longer a new thing, but working with railroad rapidity has reached the point at which we find it to-night astonishing ourselves. The International Executive Committee having their attention drawn to this matter by the magnitude of the railroad interests and the vast number of young men employed by the various lines, their peculiar temptations, their great influence and their rapid acquirement of power, appointed a General Secretary to visit prominent railway officials and bring this matter before their attention.

He was received most cordially—every facility was offered. Railroad men were not slow to see their interests. They knew very well that a godly man was a great deal safer at the throttle than the ungodly man—that the godly brakeman was more to be trusted than the ungodly. The godly conductor was more to be trusted with a train than an ungodly one. They were right, but they had this to confront: "Our stockholders are Jews and Gentiles. Now what right have we to use their money to employ men to Christianize our men?" Some stuck on that point, but when they saw their lines stepping forward, their men converted, their roads rising in the scale of fine discipline and consequently to larger dividends, the scruples of these men rapidly melted away. They now offer to us what they have a right to use—their stockholders' money—if it is going to return them cent per cent. I do not blame these men. I do not know but I would have done just the same thing myself. They were conscientious, they could not see

how the money was to come back. The trouble now is we cannot find men enough to meet our calls. Is not this astonishing—not men enough for secretaries! The railway magnates are calling for more men. They say, give us good men—we want no "slouches"—give us good men. Our association are anxious to find and educate and develop such men. We did not expect to be placed in this dilemma so soon. Here we are to-night, hands full of work and calls on every side, railway officials saying we must have this work prosecuted and saying, give us more men. There was a time in this work a few years ago when it was thought that to have independent associations of railroad men would be a good thing, but these shrewd officials said, "Where is your responsibility?" "Why not make your Railway Associations branches of that great tree that is filling the earth—the Young Men's Christian Association?" [Applause.] They saw it. You don't fool these railroad men long. They saw the point. They had tried organizing reading-rooms. The rooms ran down and that disgusted the officials. They said: "The men won't come in here and read." They found that something more than mere reading was wanted. They wanted a man to go into the room and grasp a man by the hand and say, "I am glad to see you here."

OUR GOSPEL MEETINGS.



WE call special attention to our Gospel Meetings at the Union and Nipissing Depots, at 3 o'clock each Lord's Day. The singing is always good; and those coming to speak, give the good news of satisfaction; and those who attend, also express themselves as highly pleased and profited with their visit. Now, who or whatever you are, *come!* the meetings are free to all, male or female: help us to sing; encourage the speakers by your presence; and coming

Be not Afraid only Believe.

Mark v. 38.