

and walled cities has gone forever. In ancient times also, when people had not easy means of intercommunication, it seemed necessary to live in villages, towns or cities in order to have the enjoyments of social life that arise from the meeting of friends. But with improved means of communication that difficulty of isolation has largely disappeared, and moreover with increasing intelligence has grown up an increasing appreciation of the beauties of nature that gives a charm once unknown to country life. But though these ancient causes have passed away, modern ones even more powerful have taken their place.

1. The city has a peculiar fascination for many, and especially for the young.

There is a sort of witchery in the rush and roar of city life that casts a spell over the young. The youthful mind, naturally active and alert, is greatly fascinated by a life where something new and striking is constantly appearing upon the scene. Then, too, there are facilities for pleasure, social enjoyment and mental improvement such as cannot be found in the quiet country home or village. But there is especially what the better class of young people strive after, namely, the possibilities of rising to a higher position in their trade or profession. In the country or village, even if they are at the head, it is comparatively but a condition of mediocrity. But in the city they may secure a wider, even a national reputation. They will have to enter into strong competition, but that will simply act as a spur to rouse up all their dormant energies. Dr. Chalmers, in forming a comparison between a country and a city pastorate, said that while the latter lacks leisure the former lacks stimulus, and as far as great results are concerned there is more value in stimulus than in leisure. This is proven by the fact that by far the greatest part of the world's literary work has been done not only in cities but in large cities.

2. Modern invention and discovery tend to increase this centralizing tendency.

By modern discovery and through the aid of improved machinery, the aggregate wealth of the world has greatly increased. Men count their wealth now by thousands, and even by millions, whose ancestors two or three hundred years ago were proud to count it by hundreds. There is a well-known economical principle called "Engel's Law," the substance of which is as follows: As the in-