

Editorial Department.

THE ENDEAVOR MOVEMENT.

THE Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor has lately been handled without gloves by eminent divines, and has therefore been forced upon the earnest consideration of Church workers. The attacks of those who are not favorable to the organization, so far as we have noticed, have generally been directed not so much against the Society as an institution in itself as against certain inconsistencies which are alleged to exist within its fold in spite of the obligations assumed by its members. The removal of the causes which have called forth these hostile criticisms lies therefore to a large extent within the power of the members themselves. The loyalty with which so many sincere Christians have flocked to the defence of their Endeavor banner is ample proof that they regard the organization as an effective agency for deepening their own spiritual life, for getting young Christians into harness, and for doing active work among outsiders. Elsewhere in our pages may be found two expressions of opinion on the work of the Society from somewhat different standpoints. The one which is contributed by an ardent admirer cannot fail to prove to every reader that the Endeavor movement, as is evident from the marvelous rapidity with which it has spread especially among Presbyterians, supplies a deeply felt need on the part of many of our congregations. The other, from an outsider's point of view, should lead the Endeavorers to be more jealous than ever in guarding the good name of their Society, and to disabuse their minds of the idea, if any of them have it, that Christian work consists simply in attending and taking part in religious meetings. Those who join the Society are looked upon as making lofty pretensions, and will be judged accordingly by the outside world. If they lose sight of the organization merely as an end in itself, or as a society simply for self-improvement, and make it pre-eminently a means by which to perform deeds of love, and to speak words of comfort, and to extend a helping hand to those of the outside community who are in need, then they will free themselves to a large extent from adverse criticism.