

THE MISSION OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH.

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We would begin by saying that the young people are already in the church, and the thing to determine is their mission. There is too much laxity of thought nowadays in regard to the standing of our young people; and so, frequently, it transpires that we are making great efforts to get them in the church, whereas it should be to get them to be active in the church. Why should we reverse the order of things which has existed from the beginning? They were always in, and we have no right by word or act to put them out. We should not even in thought ostracize them. We have, however, a perfect right, and it is our bounden duty to discover their true mission, and, if possible, to get them actively engaged in the performance of their work with all the freshness, strength and beauty of their young lives.

The young people are the children of the church. Their parents for the most part are members in full communion in the church. With but few exceptions they are themselves baptized members of the church. The sooner we rid ourselves of the notion that they are outside, needing consequently to be brought in, the better for all concerned. The sooner we can make clear to the young people that they already belong to the church, and that the church has claims upon them, as well as being responsible for them, the better for them and the church too. It is feared that at this very point we may have erred a good deal in the past. And are they then not to be taught the need of regeneration, and the duty of a public profession of their faith in Jesus, the Christ? Certainly they are. To teach them that they belong to the church does not conflict with this—it rather makes it incumbent upon them. That they should undertake for themselves what their parents have undertaken for them, when in infancy they presented them in baptism, or that they should undertake for themselves what their parents have neglected to