

THE YOUNG PEOPLE AND THE CHURCH.

NEVER in the history of the Church have there been such opportunities offered young people to render themselves greatly useful in the furtherance of the kingdom, as at the present day. This is an era especially appreciative of the courage, enthusiasm and value of youth. Young men are, on every hand, accorded positions of importance in almost every walk in life—in business, in the professions, in commerce, and in public administration. Everywhere the young person is receiving recognition and advancement.

To-day the Church also calls for the services of the young. She can make valuable use of them if they will but proffer themselves. They are essential to her in these days of the crowning of youth with honor, and every young man and woman should be found actively engaged in her service.

A stranger recently entered the mayor's office of a well-known Eastern city, and seeing a young man sitting at a desk hard at work, remarked: "My young friend, can you tell me when I will find the mayor in?" "Well," was the reply, "he's very busy just now, but if you will call to-morrow morning at nine o'clock, I think he will be able to see you." On the morrow the stranger returned, to find the same young man sitting there as before. "Well, my boy," he asked again, "will the mayor be able to see me now?" "Yes," was the courteous reply, "he will. I am he!"

Our mistake in the past has been, much too often, that of the thoughtless visitor in regard to the young mayor. We have allowed ourselves to fall into the habit of undervaluing and underrating youth under all circumstances, and delegating it to a place of little or minor consequence as a matter of course, without stopping to investigate as to the real merits of the case. But, fortunately, that day is past, and we have come to see that the young man and young woman are endowed with powers and capabilities which should be recognized. We see that worth must pass at its face value, whether in young or old. The present spirit of trust and confidence in the powers of the young is a splendid feature of the present age, and bodes great good for the future.

The young are wanted in the Church. They should not delay to make the most of the opportunity here opening to them. —*Zion's Herald.*

COURTESY TO THE AGED.

"OH, father, don't! I have seen that all are properly helped." The old man thus reproved replaced the butter dish upon the tea table, while a pained look settled about his silent lips. But he so wanted to be helpful that presently he laid hold of the cake plate and would have set it in circulation.

"Oh, father, don't! No one is ready for that yet; do leave me to attend to things."

Reluctantly the trembling hand re-

leased its hold. It was very hard to find himself of no use anywhere.

"I thought they might be ready," he murmured, with a deprecatory glance toward the daughter, who sat straight and solemn with a frown of displeasure wrinkling her brow. It annoyed her to have her father show himself so far behind the times in methods of table service; to have him, despite her oft-repeated instructions and admonitions, relapse into the simple, unconventional ways of a long outgrown age. It fretted her to have him vary in the slightest degree from the latest established modes of etiquette. She failed to realize that he was her most deserving heaven-sent guest; that his harmless deviations should be endured and condoned rather than sharply rebuked.

An aged tree cannot be bent like a tender sapling. Its eccentricities of growth must now be tolerated. To age, with its infirmities, its loneliness, its many deprivations, should be allowed all the privileges and exemptions we would accord a most revered guest. The most comfortable seat in the coziest corner belong to it; the softest bed in the most

A TEST AND USE OF LITERATURE

A PROFESSOR in a prominent Western university, who bears an honored name among creators and critics of literature, received a hearty testimony to the inspiring power of his work from a pastor in a far-away nook. "It has been my custom for years," he added, "to read aloud some stirring piece of writing before going before the public to do *extempore* speaking, this as a stimulus to imagination, feeling, and fluency of language."

Nor is it by any means an infrequent practice among literary men to feed their souls with Shakspeare, Spenser, Goethe, or Browning before consciously beginning the work of composition. Emotion does not, of course, come with the mere mechanical attitude, but must always respond to the stimulus of high thoughts; and the man who seeks to express truth in noble language must be able to experience ready fellowship with those who have succeeded in "holding the mirror up to nature."

There is a lesson here for Christians who neglect the very source and pulse of inspiration in well-doing—the word of



AN OPIUM DEN, CHINATOWN.

desirable sleeping-room should persuade slumber to its eyelids. The food the aged one most craves should oftenest coax his declining appetite. So many tempests of sorrow have racked him, so many life battles have scarred him, that he has earned respite and repose. Turn to the aged only the sunny side of your nature. The country is yet uncivilized that does not try to pluck every possible thorn from the pathway of age; the heart is yet unregenerate that does not strive to make its rough places smooth.—*Congregationalist.*

God. Rightly used and apprehended, that word does not return unto Him void. —*Baptist Union.*

THE inner growth of a Christian should be continuous. The renewal is said to be "day by day." We should count the day lost which records no victory over some fault or secret sin, no new gain in self-discipline, in the culture of the spirit, no enlargement in the power of serving, no added features of likeness to the Master.—*J. R. Miller.*