

The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.

Matt. ix. 6.

church societies are trying to do for heathenism. They have given freely of their money for an organization which shall go out among the young men everywhere and teach them morality and industry. They preach less than they work—the agents of this great body of great-hearted men, extending throughout the civilized world. These agents are educated for their work. They are practical men, zealous in the cause, who shun controversy, abhor self-righteousness, meet rebuffs with cheerful patience, and who win respect and attention by their manliness and sincerity. They find thousands of young men who are without good home influences, and they offer them friendship, a reading room, a place for social enjoyment, food when they are hungry, a bed when they are homeless, work when they are idle, support when they are tempted. They seek the companionship of young men who have been lured into dissipation, talk with them and fortify them against the power of appetite. They make a cheerful home in every city for the young man who is a stranger, or who is denied home influences. In short the Young Men's Christian Association is doing the work that the churches cannot do. It does not ask that a young man shall be a Christian to receive the benefits of the society. It extends the hand of friendship to the world, and undertakes to help men to lead sober and industrious lives.

Recognizing the temptations which beset young men employed on the railways, it has made them a special object of care. It has its railway department, and the good it has done is heartily admitted by railway managers who have all become regular contributors to its treasury because they find their employees more trustworthy under the work of the Association. There can be no higher testimony to the value of the work than this. Among traveling men, again, the Association is doing a noble work, and business men have

learned to appreciate its importance by the improvement in the character of their salesmen. More than any organization the world has known it reaches into the active life of society. It does nothing but good, and it does an immense amount of this. When business men of whatever, or no creed, find their business interests are advanced by the influence of this association on the young men, nothing more is needed to indicate the extraordinary character of the work. Whatever may be a man's religious beliefs, if he is a man with a love of mankind in his heart, he ought to feel the most profound respect for the body of men who are doing more than the churches can do to regenerate society. If we are to judge of the tree by its fruits, we must hold this Association in the highest esteem.

The growth of the organization is as extraordinary as the simplicity of its methods. Although it has been in existence for a quarter of a century its recent development is what is most remarkable. Until it had earned, not merely the confidence but the enthusiastic support of business men by years of faithful endeavors, it grew with comparative slowness. Within two years the increase in the representation of societies at the annual convention has amounted to more than 40 per cent. The Association grows more influential and the membership grows larger every year. It is a power to be recognized and sustained as of the highest benefit to society.

YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

Every Monday Evening,

AT 8 O'CLOCK.

ALL INVITED.

God be merciful to me a sinner.

Luke xviii. 13.