

upon this one or that one to accept Christ as his example in life, his friend, his Saviour ; and every means that is really effective in producing this result ought, in my opinion, to be employed and used to the full extent of its power. Consider the power of irreligious worldlings in society, to undo or impede the progress of the life-giving truths of God. Few of the sins of society are the direct result of the open advocacy of apostles of vice. It is true we can probably trace the origin of many to unholy literature which taints the imagination and fires the passions of youth. But more powerful and more widespread than these are the conversations, conduct and amusements of thoughtlessly or deliberately impure men. These men are not monsters. We meet them daily, dine with them, do business with them, see them at the club and the foot-ball matches. Their object may not be to lower the tone of morality, but that is certainly the effect of their conduct. There is an ill-concealed contempt for things religious, there are the clever but coarse jokes and obscene stories ; there is a confessed scepticism of virtue ; there is a shameless confession of impurity, and the charge of hypocrisy against those who profess to live otherwise. It is into this current of social influence that nine boys out of every ten are cast and to our sorrow we know that many have been swept on to destruction by the tide of human passion thus aroused.

Is it possible to stem this tide and turn the current of social influence to meet man's higher cravings ? God only knows how far we may succeed in this effort, but this is surely the aim of every clergyman and Christian worker, whether in the pulpit or out of it. To accomplish the purpose it is very certain that every force at the command of the church must be called forth, and possibly none is more potent than the clergyman in society. If a clergyman is able to live among men, feel their temptations, enter into their ambitions and amusements, and remain loyal to the supreme object of his ministry he is wielding an influence for good that is as substantial as it is great.

II. Let us next enquire how may the clergyman prepare himself for effective social work ? The first step in my opinion is to put himself in harmony with society. If you put yourself in antagonism with every prejudice and practice of society you might as well talk to the

wind.  
was de  
tration  
another  
religio  
ported  
philoso  
the ear  
man an  
those r  
people  
always  
world.  
bred so  
the enj  
men he  
will no  
and it

In de  
deport  
lives o  
Emerso  
outpray  
shine a  
good wi  
him ; h  
exclud

At th  
respect f  
describ  
for the  
can be g  
lighthea  
accordin  
trade or  
the coat  
and by t