

gifts, and the development of those hidden talents they may possess, in such a way as to be a blessing to themselves and to the church. Whilst it is no doubt a mistake to put young men too soon into responsible positions, yet it is quite possible to make the other mistake and neglect to give them something to do in church work. It is much harder for a man in middle life to begin teaching in the Sabbath school, or taking part in prayer meeting, than for a young man to do so; and there is less time for the former to acquire the experience that is possible to the latter. A man who begins at twenty-one years of age will find it much easier to begin, and will be much more proficient at forty-five than he who does not begin until he has reached forty. Then the pastor and other office-bearers ought to seek to know the young men growing up in their midst, and be ever watchful in observing the gifts and graces they possess; and their endeavour ought also to be to draw those who possess them out, and enlist them in Christian work. Many a latent talent lies buried in the ground, simply because no one looks it out or digs it up. The Church would greatly help herself and bless her young men by setting them to work in some sphere or another, so soon as they are at all fitted for it.

This sketch must now be closed. Some of the *hindrances* which prevent our young men taking a deeper interest than they often do in religious matters have been mentioned, and some of the *helps* to overcome these hindrances have been suggested. May the young men of our land be won to Christ, and enlisted in His service, and as one by one the veterans fall, young heroes may be raised up to fight the battle, till "the heathen shall be given to Christ for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for His possession."

COLLEGE DAYS—A RETROSPECT.

BY THE REV. M. M'GREGOR, M.A.,
TILSONBURG.

COLLEGE DAYS! What a crowd of pleasant memories and happy associations come rushing into the mind of the alumnus settled down to the practical work of the ministry at the mention of these words! During the college course the hard and systematic work necessary to taking a respectable stand in the classes, causes the student often to look forward to the after-college days as bearing a promise of respite from the monotony of daily study; but when he has reached the coveted goal he finds that the necessity for hard and constant mental toil has not abated in a single degree, while the advantages for study are often not nearly so great. The hard-worked pastor often thinks with a sigh of the opportunities for systematic reading and careful thinking which are his no longer, and the many pleasant features of college life looked at from his present standpoint stand out with a prominence which increases with every succeeding year. Just as the traveller in taking a backward glance over the country through which he has passed sees only the more prominent features of the landscape blending beautifully together in the distance, so the many advantages and the happy experiences of bygone days claim our attention and anything which may at the time have seemed like drudgery is forgotten.

The writer well remembers his first glimpse of the old Knox College building, and the feeling of disappointment caused by its rather antiquated and dilapidated appearance, so different from what he expected. This feeling, however, soon vanished before the kind and hearty welcome