

THE SECRET OF WINNING SOULS.

The only sure way of winning the young to Christ is by going after them in the spirit and strength of Christ. This involves the loving them for Christ's sake—and showing it. You must look at them as those for whom Jesus gave his blood, and for whom his great soul is now in travail. It is not their attractiveness in your eyes, but their worth in his sight, which must be the basis of your loving efforts in their behalf. If you count them his representatives, and do for them as if you were doing for him, you will be at your best with them, and if anything can win them, such efforts as yours will. They cannot be unmoved by love like this.

The writer's first experience is a mission-school gave him a lesson on this point. It was the garret room of a dismal building near the river-bank of one of our New England cities, in the earlier days of mission-school work among the roughest class of our city purlieus. The score or more of wretched children from the garrets and cellars of the neighborhood, who had been coaxed in for the unfamiliar exercises of a Sunday-school, seemed an unpromising class for Christian instruction. Yet the visitor's heart was then warm with the love and zeal of a new convert, and he was longing to do anything for the Saviour who service he just entered. In one corner of the room there was a boy more forlorn appearing than any other, ragged, filthy, with a swollen face—around which he was just trying to adjust a coarse bandage. The visitor stepped across the room, and, taking the bandage from the poor boy's hand, with a word of sympathy he folded the cloth anew, and tied it above the little fellow's head. As he took his hands away, that boy turned his face up to him with a look never to be forgotten—a look of mingled gratitude and wonder. Oh, how

much that look told of the poor outcast's experience and nature! It seemed to tell of hands often raised against him in anger, but none before laid on him in tenderness and sympathy. That look won the visitor's heart to Christian work among the unsaved and overlooked. And that simple act of kindness on his part woke the first hope and the longing in the heart of that mission scholar, which resulted, by God's blessing, in his rescue—and he now lives a Christian husband and father, and worker for his Saviour. The power illustrated by that incident is the only power that can ever be relied on for efficiency in any Christian service. It was successful in a gloomy garret when other efforts would have failed in the richly furnished-room of a building which had cost half a million dollars.

No greater mistake can be made than to suppose that fine buildings and well-furnished rooms will prove a substitute for personal sympathy and loving ways and words, in the effort to win young men from the wrong way to the right. There has been a great waste of breath in the discussion over the kinds of reading and the sort of games which ought to find a place in the rooms of Christian Association buildings. It has been said that young men are tempted by light reading, and by the rattle of dice or the shuffling of cards, and are sure to go where such attractions await them. But the truth is, young men long more for good-fellowship, for the hearty hand-grasp, and for the sign of a personal interest in themselves and their affairs, than for novels or pictorial papers, or for dice and cards. Without these attractions, no drinking-house or gambling-room could win and hold its victims. A young man is sure of a hearty greeting if he visits one of these places of evil resort. Unless an equally hearty greeting awaits him in the rooms opened to win him to a better course of living, is it to be wondered at that he misses something