

somewhat inconclusively with a social reunion. "The Twentieth Door" means the last years of the nineteenth century as the entrance to the twentieth. It is a story of prairie farm and college life, the college scenes being taken from Andover. It represents students in a variety of characters and ways, including that of acting as waiters in fashionable summer resorts as a means of tiding them over their winter's session. Paul Sidney, the hero-in-chief, graduates at last, and the closing chapter is his English Oration on The Twentieth Door. Smoking, drinking, gambling, and modern college athletics come in for severe condemnation, together with the Prince of Wales and General Grant. Yet the whole story is commonplace, and its puns, jokes and laughable situations must have been very much out of place in a church on a Sunday evening. Mr. Sheldon seems to wish to win people, and especially young people, to the cause of Christ. Now, he has a perfect right to his own opinion, let us say, about smoking, but can any sane man think that an ordinary young man about town will be led to the Saviour by a tirade against tobacco? Such a thing will infallibly drive him away, knowing, as he does, what real, indisputable evils there are to contend with in the world. A prominent merchant and elder of the Church in one of our Canadian cities was much afflicted with a minister who almost weekly spoke from the pulpit as if a man could not smoke and be a Christian. He said to me, "You know I sit near the front of the church with my grown up boys beside me every Sabbath. My boys hear him, and they know I smoke. Therefore they must conclude either that I am not a Christian and thus a bad man, or that the minister is a fool." I believe they came to the latter uncomplimentary decision, which would not help the minister's influence over them. Mr. Sheldon has run out of material, and had better go back to the simple Gospel. Yet many will find his books readable, although hardly Sunday reading of the highest type. "The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." It takes a fine soul to appreciate the latter, and, as the beadle said,