

A library is needed in a room that can be used for evening classes.

Bath rooms are very desirable.

The rooms need not be expensively fitted or furnished, and it is better that the men contribute something toward current expenses, as they feel more interest in what has cost them something.

These rooms should be arranged as to be easily thrown together for meetings of a social, entertaining, literary, or religious character.

ITS HISTORY.

This work came to the International Committee unsought, and was laid on the Association of Cleveland in 1872 by the pastors of that city. Their attention had been called to it and they had been urged to take hold of it. They had done the best they could, preaching in the depots on Sundays, but they realized very soon that it was a work they could not accomplish, and they said:—"There is a work to be done, but it is a work that we ministers of churches can't do, but which the Young Men's Christian Association with their means and methods, are peculiarly adapted for, and they must take hold of it." The railway officials in Cleveland fitted up a very handsome room in the depot; but you are a very great way ahead of them in that respect. This was done in Montreal in 1854, and in St. Louis in 1855 and 1856, and at other points in the Dominion here in 1855 and 1856. The same experiment has been tested ever since, and while there has been some measure of success, on the whole the thing has failed in accomplishing the object that the officials had in view. The reading room and the library is attractive to men of reading habits; but the fellows that we need to reach most are those to whom the saloon is very much more attractive than the reading-room. And so there was a failure in the experiment, and a great many officials of our country may say now with no hesitation that the money invested in that business has not paid.

So we did another thing. We selected the best man that could be found to give his whole time to this work. He was made the Secretary of the Association and put in charge of the fine room that had been fitted up. Well, he had a lonesome time of it. The boys would not go and see the room. They had an idea that he was a sort of Chaplain, and they only went to see him when they were going to die, and they did not want to give him any work of that kind as long as they could help it. Another one expressed the idea the Secretary's duty was to put the Bible under their noses whenever they went there. But the man went through the offices and shops and wherever he could find young men, and told them all about this room, how abundantly it was supplied with reading matter and writing materials, and asked them all to come and make themselves at home. But what drew the men there was not the reading and writing materials, but it was this Secretary, who had gone out amongst them and made them feel that he was their friend and had come to save them. And they returned the call, and when they came to see the Secretary they got a right cordial welcome. He knew how to make the room attractive.