Abstract
of an
Address by Paul Howard
at
Ross St. Presby Church
Brooklyn N.Y.
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No 65

Subject -
Work for young men

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General Howard spoke at the Ross Street Presbyterian church on Sunday morning, at the request of the officers of the Young Men's Christian Association of Brooklyn, especially in behalf of the work for young men. He defines the object as follows:-

"First and foremost:- The salvation of young men."

By this General Howard understands the word "salvation" in its broadest sense;- that is to say, to rid the souls of young men of the incubus of sinful thoughts, sinful words and sinful doings. In looking out upon the world a young man sees men prosperous whom he soon discovers to be loaded down with these sins; their thoughts are impure, their words are tainted and their practices, especially in secret, are criminal; and somehow, he early gets it into his mind that success in every thing which the world calls success, hinges upon these sins. Without these sins business success, especially the accumulation of wealth, is impossible. Of course this conclusion is a terrible and often a fatal fallacy; for genuine success in any proper thing is better attained by a life of honor, virtue, integrity.

"Second. Salvation from these sins takes on two forms. One "salvation by prevention". The Christian association, where

Several months ago, at the request of the Professorship of Church Work, at the request of the officers of the Young Men's Christian Association of Princeton, especially in behalf of the work for young men. He delivered the following lectures:-

First and Foremost:- The salvation of young men.

By this general phrase we mean "salvation" in its broadest sense:- that is to say, to the souls of young men of the students of study, merely young men strictly young. In fulfilling our mission we should a young man sees the consummation of some object connected with his strong desires; these desires are innate, usually with the cultivated powerful, especially in strong, are original and commanding. In early life it has his mind upon success in some thing which he would call success, hence the desire etc. Without these strong success, especially the accumulation of wealth, is impossible. Of course this combination is terrible and often a fatal failure; for pursuing success in any direction which is not directed by rule of honor, virtue, etc.

Second. Salvation of the entire whole man. One salvation by prepaution. The Christian association, where

you find a live one, is especially competent in the line of prevention.

A boy goes from a good home, he secures employment in a business house, he boards where he can get his food cheapest, and he dwells in a little upper tenement room in Brooklyn. At the Young Men's Christian Association Rooms, when he is lonely and homesick, he finds good companionship. When he needs exercise he finds a gymnasium. When he needs good books or other publications, he finds here a library and a reading-room, and he also meets those who will instruct him physically, intellectually, morally, spiritually. Here is the prevention. Fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters will co-operate in securing to the young man this prevention. It is a bright and happy one, and it has succeeded to a greater extent than we dream.

Of course very little is said of those prevented from falling. The temptations are yet ten to one against the success of the heartiest welcome and the best fellowship of any Christian Association, and so many do fall.

"The other form is that of what we ordinarily call "redemption"; but redemption, as a church word, is often misunderstood." What General Howard means by redemption, is that after a young man has fallen into the habit of profanity, that he get rid of it (the habit). After he has fallen into the habit of licentiousness and impurity, which sapeth the foundations of his

you find a Negro, is essentially regarded as his lack of preparation.

A boy goes from a good home, he secures employment in a business house, he learns what it can do for his fellow graduates, and he calls in Christian fellowship from the Brooklyn. As he joins the Young Men's Christian Association rooms, where he is lonely and homesick, he finds good companionship. Then he needs exercise the finds a gymnasium. Then he needs good books or other publications, he finds here a library and a reading-room, and he also meets those who will influence him physically, intellectually, morally, spiritually. Here is the preparation. Pastors, mothers, brothers and sisters co-operate in assisting the young man into preparation. It is a brilliant and happy one, and he has succeeded to a greater extent than we dream.

Of course many little is said of those prepared from childhood. The exceptions are few let us one contrast the heartless selfishness [illegible] of the Christian Association, and so many do fail.

The other form is what we ordinarily call "re-demption": the meaning of a church worker, is often misunderstood. Many Christian church people by redemption, as they offer a young man who is in the midst of profanity, find the power of God. After the man finds the habit of profanity and impurity, which spread the foundations of his

being, that he break away from it; that he lay new foundations, that he may be able to look his fellowmen in the face, and have a return of conscious strength to do the work of life and do it properly. Yes! If he has fallen into the habit of drunkenness, more or less pronounced, and is gradually losing the confidence of his employers or of his associates in business, that he utterly ceases from drunkenness! In brief, that he so turn over a new leaf as to become as innocent as he was, so far as wrong doing is concerned, when a little child. This is redemption. "This is the coveted salvation; it is good for this world, and when actually attained, no other is needed for the next."

¶ "Now the whole work of the Young Men's Christian Association has its aim to promote this sort of salvation. Among the commercial travelers, thousands of whom are traversing our highways to every nook and corner of the globe, the Y. M. association finds its way, and takes them by the hand and gives a little relief where family ties are so jarred by wandering travel, and home influence so little. Among the railroad men, six hundred thousand of whom are thrown out like a vast army to do grand work for the world, it comes to them with all its helps and kindly influences, and over all the young men in cities and villages and colleges the association promotes this grand boon of salvation, both directly and indirectly.

These are General Howard's points which he illustrated abundantly from his own long experiences in other parts of the country. He said further: "An individual association is what you make it. The best associations are not where there are ten workers and three hundred recipients of favor. No! The best associations are where there are three hundred and ten workers or more, according to the numbers on the books!" The best help both in the way of prevention and in the way of redemption is secured to those who are most active according to the time they can spare for it, in helping other young men. The reward for a single soul saved is greater than all the millions that the wealthiest creosus in America is able to count up. A young man, by the help of a young man, is saved. In a few years he is a Henry Potter, a Bishop Brooks or a D. L. Moody, lifting up thousands of others out of the darkness into the light.

¶ "Again, the working for men in the right way develops latent ability in the worker. He himself grows strong and stalwart in body, in mind and in heart, and you have as a result such men as Thane Miller, McBirney, Wm. E. Dodge. ~~Thos. Lee~~.

In conclusion General Howard demonstrated that "the work of this association, which took its present form in London, in 1844, and has spread all over the world, was really the comingling of Christians of all persuasions working together for

the common Master, and every day more and more do we see the Master's approval of these efforts. It is indeed part and parcel of the church of Christ, the church of Christ in action. The Brooklyn association and its branches are abreast of any in the country, or of any in the world! Dear Brethren, endorse them strongly!"