

**LAY EFFORTS; ITS
RANGE
AND METHODS**

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Lay Efforts; Its Range and Methods by H. C. Haydn

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H. C. HAYDN

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BY THE
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INTRODUCTION.

IT is a fit thing to be said, that for substance these pages are the outgrowth of three or four lectures to lay-workers under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association of Cleveland, O., in the winter of 1874. They were free, informal talks, as to personal friends, mostly young men. In the revision and re-cast of them it has not seemed best to throw them out of the style of direct address then assumed. They are given to the larger public, partly at the suggestion of those who heard them, partly by reason of the conviction that what was then thought to be useful to a few earnest men, may be found to be of service to the vastly greater number who, in the Church of Christ, are not content to be enrolled as members, but must likewise see to it that, in some good degree, they fulfill the commission which repeats itself in the ears of each new recruit in the army of the Lord.

So far as I know, this is the first venture in print, aside from a few fugitive newspaper articles, in this direction.

Doubtless, it will seem to many that going thus far, it were well to have gone farther; to have covered more ground and to have treated the several points with more fullness. But the aim has been rather to throw out hints which might become fruitful in those that receive them, and to bring what is said within easy reach of every Christian worker who may have the faintest desire to possess himself of the contents of these chapters. This end a larger book might possibly have defeated.

Some one more capable to instruct and stimulate the active young membership of our churches, though probably not more closely in sympathy with what is best in the restless activity of our age, may follow after with wiser counsels. The thought shapes itself into a well-defined hope that so it may be. A pressing want just now is to have done for the Young Men's Christian Association what is being done for the Sunday-school workers of the Church of our time. It will have been enough for me to have contributed something in this direction.

I.

THE MINISTRY AND THE LAITY.

THE Church of Christ consists of ministers and laymen. What she does for the world is done by the one or the other, or both conjoined. Their sphere is not identical, though in the same field.

There is probably no work of the laity which the ministry may not with propriety do. The Apostles called into existence the order of deacons, not on grounds of propriety, but of expediency; and gave the service of tables and the care of the poor into their hands.

There is, doubtless, a sphere of the ministry which, so long as they are laymen, the laity may not with propriety enter. It is well to recognize at the outset the fact that there has always been a body of men called out and separated unto the special service of God. They ministered at the altar under the Old, they give themselves to the ministry of the Word and the ordinances of Christ under the New dispensation.