

**LECTURES  
TO YOUNG MEN**

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Lectures to Young Men by Jr. Eliot

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**JR. ELIOT**

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TO

YOUNG MEN.

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## INTRODUCTORY LECTURE.



### AN APPEAL.

"I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." — 1 John II. 14-17.

I PROPOSE, as already announced, to give several discourses to young men, addressed to them as a distinct class in the community and as individuals. For such an undertaking we have the authority and example of an Apostle, who, in the words of my text, addresses his exhortations to young men, with a degree of solemnity that shows the importance attached to this part of his preaching. He repeats the same words twice, and with increasing emphasis: "I write unto you, young men, be-

cause ye have overcome the wicked one"; and again, "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one."

This apostolical example we would follow; this Scriptural authority we would use. I desire to address the young men of this society, and all those who are willing to hear me, in the words of soberness and truth. Under different circumstances and with a feebler tongue; but with a purpose I trust equally true, and with a work to be accomplished, not less important than that which the Apostles themselves were sent to accomplish. For their work was to speak in Christ's stead, persuading men to be reconciled to God; and the same work is committed to every minister of Christ, at the present day. They may do it badly; they may work as hirelings, and not as faithful shepherds; but their work, whether done or neglected, is the same.

The circumstances, however, under which the Apostle spoke are very different from our

own. He addressed those only who were members of the Church of Christ, who had already made a good profession and proved their sincerity by lives of obedience. For he says, "I have written unto you, young men, because ye are strong"; that is, strong in the Lord and in the power of his might, "and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one." In that day there were very few nominal Christians. Those who bore the name of Christ were also compelled to bear his cross. They who came to hear Christian preaching carried their lives in their hands, and the young men of a Christian society were an army of self-devoted followers of Him, under whose standard they were enlisted. I wish that it were so now. The outward danger is past, but I wish that the self-devotion could continue.

Unhappily for the Christian cause, it is not so. Of all the young men in this city, who were educated by Christian parents, and who in common language would call themselves Christians, not one tenth have a full right to