T hy thoughts are good and Thou art kind E'en when we think it not; How many an anxious, faithless mind Sits grieving o'er it's lot. And frets and pines by day and night, As G d has lost it out of sight, And all its wants forgot.

Ah, no! God ne'er forgets His own, His heart is far too true; He ever seeks their good alone, His love is daily new, And though thou deem that things go il Yet He is just and holy still, And all things He can do.

The Lord is ever close and near To those who keep His word: Whene'er they cry to Him in fear Their prayer is surely heard; He knoweth well who love Him well; His love shall yet their clouds dispel, And grant the hope defer ed. -Paul Gerhardt,

That the Ministry Be Not Blamed.

The blamelessness of the ministry is the strength of the Church. To safeguard the character and reputation of the ministry is to maintain the Church in its rightful position as the strongest moral and spiritual force in our civilization. Whatever weakens the moral quality of the ministry robs it of its true dignity, or lowers it in the regard of earnest men in the Church or out of it, does a damage to the influence of the Church, and hurts the best interests

society beyond what would be possible in any other way. This unique mess in the character of the ministry and its relation to life makes the good name of the commonest minister a the Kingdom of God.

Christian people are sometimes too thoughtless in their talk about ministers, especially before their children. Your minister may not be the most learned or the most eloquent or the most original preacher in the world; dren's minister, and to them, if not to you, he represents the Master whose name he speaks and the Church whose commission he holds. You cannot speak slightingly of him except to your woundings whose scars will remain after many years. They were wise, those parents of the past generation, who suffered not themselves or others ministry. Not a few of the best men in the pulpit to-day were attracted to the service of the Church because from childhood they had learned to regard it as a sacred calling. It ought not to be less sacred to the children of to-day.

And a minister's reputation is peculiarly sensitive. His calling brings him into close relations with all classes. He is consulted by all sorts and conditions of men upon questions of the widest variety and highest importance. Homes are open to him as they are not to a stranger, and the secrets of the hearth are entrusted to his keephonesty, integrity, trustworthiness, and you have endangered the sacredest interests in the community. And the slightest stain on his name goes deeper than the deepest wound given another man. His character must be above suspicion. He cannot defend his good name against unjust attack without losing, even should he gain. The whom it is given, if the need be, to use the world's weapons in the world | could teach us all more about practical | of men, are in honor bound to guard his name against suspicion and attack the great books ever written on the from which he cannot defend himself.

selves are so careless of their own and have the art of reaching the masses. their profession's good name. Perhaps no graver charge can be brought against ligence sharpened by the touch of an the ministry than this. One of the evil spirit, they are quick to discover causes of the unspirituality of longvacant congregations is the harsh criticisms which "candidates" pass upon ness to curse the souls and wreck the one another. One of the reasons why lives of men. President Schurman, newspaper men are too often indifferent to the externals of religion is that mission to the Philippines, in a recently they so often see the worst and weakest | published article says : "I regret that things in the ministry—the inconsist- the Americans allowed the saloon to We may be very sure that the faithent vanity, the unbecoming desire for get a foothold on the islands. That notoriety, the ill-founded dogmatism, but most of all the under-the-breathuncharity for other ministers. plain word to those who have to do the Filipinos. We suppressed the with the making of opinion in the profession, and especially to the young saloon to flourish. One emphasized tions, it will disappear from them only men now entering upon their life-work in the ministry, may avail somewhat

duty of the Church, through its colleges | the wiles of the devil. It were better too heavy a burden upon earnest and should allow the inhabitants to be

weakling, the trifler, the buffoon, the the benefits of our Western freedom. morally indirect, ought not to find a culture, and civilization. refuge behind the "Divine rights" of and bishops may have all charity, but them is burdensome, but they pay is they must also look well to the charaeter and conduct of the men admitted and retained, in a privileged place, "that the minister be not blamed." retain the holy office whose transgressions of the moral law, to say nothing; burning house to rescue a child from of professional etiquette, were notorious. Charity is indeed most excellent, I in defense of the truth; but more men but it must not be made a cloak of have leaped into the burning mouth of unrighteousness. Those who are to be ensamples unto the flock must be above suspicion. Unsullied integrity of character, unswerving devotion to duty, unselfish interest in men, consuming love to Christ, against such | truth. "My soul, be on thy guard." there is no law, and with such characteristics dominant the ministry dare not be hlamed.—The Westminster.

Wiles of the Devil.

Those who manage the affairs of wickedness in this world perform their task with consummate skill. The strategy of the most skilful general in the field, manceuvering for position, taking advantage of the geography of the country, concealing his plans, deceiving the enemy by false movements. is more than matched by the masterly schemes of the workers of iniquity. If those who stand for virtue and righteousness should bring such ability to trust in the hands of all who care for the task in hand, the right would speedily triumph.

Nearly all modern inventions and forces of civilization have been pressed press, the railroad, the steamship, have been made to do work for Satan. Music, painting, and sculpture, those he may even be very undistinguished; fine arts in which the genius of man but he is your minister, and your chil- has expressed the beauty of heaven and earth for the culture and elevation of the soul, have been dragged into the service of sin. Christmas Day, the festival of our Lord's birth; Fourth of July, the festival of patriotism; the own hurt, and your words may cause Sabbath Day, our Lord's day, ordained The Church Advocate, down in Pennin your children's spiritual natures sore in the beginning to perpetuate the memory of the Almighty in the earth, more and more confirmed in the opinhave all been perverted and made to minister to evil. The workers of in iquity have, in some cases, captured to speak hurtfully concerning the the artillery of the kingdom of God and turned it against the fortress of truth and virtue.

> With what satanic skill have th stares of evil been adapted to the nature and condition of men! Why men than the churches and the Young with as much avidity as the veriest Men's Christian Association? Partly because men love darkness rather than light, and partly because "the children of this world are wiser in their

generation than the children of light.' Evil-doe s study the art of finding men. They do find men. They know how to spread the net and bait the ing. Damage his reputation for moral hook. They are fishers of men. They catch men. They catch the young men fresh from the country, the brilliant men who are sent to the capital of the State to make laws for the people. They catch the poor who have no place to sleep at night, and the rich who have more than heart could wish. No class escapes them. We hear much about sociology now. We have learned reath of evil report can spoil his life | professors who write books on this subf its bloom. His honor is in every ject. They have good theories, but man's keeping, and other men, to the evil-doers hold the working theories. A convention of liquor dealers seciology than we can learn from all subject. They know men. They un-The pity of it is that ministers them- derstand the social instinct. They

They are always alert. With intelevery open door through which they may introduce the engines of wicked-Chairman of the United States Comhas hurt the Americans more than any thing else, and the spectacle of the cockfight there, and permitted the the Flipino frailty, and the other the to take on new and better forms. American vice. I have never seen a to the curing of this most hurtful Filipino drunkard." Tolread that is the unprofitable servant in the parable way thereto. Idlers are unrestful, enough to make the blood of a Christian And if it is the duty of the people boil with righteous indignation. The had. Was it destroyed? Nay. to speak well of their ministers for alertness of the workers of iniquity was given to another. -- Morning Star. some. They are happiest who are most their own and their work's sake, and enables them to enter every door, and if it is the duty of ministers to speak to go early. The United States is a

Satan's followers seem eager to do the ministry. It is this that gives his bidding. The yoke he places upon reason to the enemy to speak reproach- them is galling and heavy, but they fully. Presbyteries and conferences wear it willingly. The tax he lays on with scarce a murmer. We have known men to give all their income to vice, and leave their wives and children at home without food and clothing. Men Unwise charity has permitted men to have leaped into the sea to save a loved one from drowning, and rushed into a the flames, and marched to the stake hell to quench a fiery appetite which sin awakened and to push on the conquests of Satan. The wiles of the devil have taken more souls than love and wisdom and righteousness and N. Y. Advocate.

is the Church Growing Worse?'

If this question means the Church Universal, visible and invisible, it will strike the true Christian as an ab-

If it means the General Church, the visible, militant Church throughout the earth, our answer is, "No." The Church of Jesus Christ, considered as a general institution, has enough of the Master's spirit and purpose in it to make it the greatest and best institution on earth, the strongest bulwark against the refluent tides of barbarism, and the world's best hope in any structural form.

But if the question means simply the local church, or even whole associations of local churches, over definite areas and for periods of time shorter into the service of evil. The printing or longer, we are sadly compelled to recognize that tendencies backward and downward are in many localities dominant.

The church, considered as an organization, is no better than the character of its membership. If anywhere there is a church the membership of which is growing less spiritual and more worldly, that church is certainly growsylvania, says that it is "becoming ion that the sins of the church have shorn it of its former great power.' That is doubtless true of a great many local churches and even groups of churches. In the language of a Methodist exchange, in such churches members indulgein Sunday excursions, or on supposed compulsion engage for money in Sunday work." They "seek is the saloon more attractive to young for all forms of worldly amusements worldling. In gambling, dancing, drinking, theater going, Sabbath desecration, money grabbing, extravagance in living, many in the church rival those who make no pretence to piety As long as a man is a contributor to the church, especially a large contribu tor, no questions are asked, or, i asked, the testimony of the accused is satisfactory." It is also said that "there is little or no discipline in the churches to-day. Neither is there much preaching against the sins which stain the characters of so many church members. Ministers do not seem to have the courage to insist that church members must be honest, truthful, exemplary. They may sometimes do it in a general way in the pulpit; but direct, pointed, specific preaching on such topics is not the order of the

There is such a thing as an organization calling itself a church but ceasing to have vital relationship to the true Church of Jesus Christ. This has been the declaration of all the great religious reformers. It was the contention of Wycliffe. Huss, Luther, and Knox. It will never do to confound the churches with religion itself. If a church lose the true spirit and purpose of Jesus Christ, it is no longer a true church. The Christianity of men is not always identical with the Christianity of God. It has been said that the decline of the first is often for the latter a "renascence and rejuvenation." fulness of the faithless will not destroy the kingdom of God. If the light of Gospel truth is extinguished in one Americans drunk awakens disgust in place it will shine out in another. If py till I come"? Are we putting out the Church of Christ cannot continue our talents to interest? If we are not

A divine law is back of this. From was taken away even that which he

well of one another, it is no less the great country, but it is no match for position are often as great a force in trying situations as sheer inteliectual and courts to see to it that the minis- that the beautiful flag of our country one's temper under provocation, of ability. The power of restraining try deserves to be well-spoken of by should never have been unfurled over looking on the bright side of things in extracts of barks, roots and gums in honorable men. It is possible to lay the islands of the Pacific than that we discouraging circumstances and of not the world. It is a safe and reliable must approve itself to men. The our vices, instead of being blessed with almost universa'ly recognize.

Love's Overflow.

God delights to bless us overflowingly. He who is Love cannot be content with giving us bread and clothes and light and air. He must put in a thousand things that are not of His love to us. The stars must look down heaven's kindliness upon us. fragrance; the birds must bring their; song. Our necessities, measured and stonecutter, "I haven't seen the plans' give us music and laughter and the joys of little children and the brightness of | have not seen the great plans of the nome and friendship. Man cannot live ed. Love that reads in little common things a wealth that is more than golden, a glory that outpasses art, a meaning that is deeper than wordsthis is what love asks and what love gives. Look at the mother's love to of precious time! What waste of energy to be chirping nonsense to a little child who cannot understand a word of it! But love understands it; feasts Behind that sun, as behind this moveon it. Commandment, duty, necessity, service- there is room for more | Lord God Almighty, Master and than all that. "She hath done what Maker of the universe, from whose she could." She never preached; she hand the spheres are rolled to their never did any wonderful work; she orbits, and whose voice has been the never built a church or endowed a hosharmony of this world since the mornpital or founded a mission. What then | ing stars sang together.- Henry W hath she done? She hath loved her Grady. Lord with a deep, tender devotion that gladdened and strengthened and comforted him. He who is Love sets most store by love. Love that delights in him; love that communes with him; love that is ever seeking to bring him its best riches; love that finds its heaven in his pleasure, its hell in his grief, its all in his service; love that blesses him with adoring joy for his great love; that rests triumphantly in his presence, and wanders restlessly if he be gone—that is to him earth's richest gift. - Mark Guy Pearce.

Victories of Prayer. Oh, the victories of prayer! They are the mountain-tops of the Bible. They take us back to the plain of Mamre, to the fords of Peniel, to the prison of Joseph, to the triumphs of Moses, to the transcendent victories of Joshua, to the deliverances of David, to the miracles of Elijah and Elisha, to the whole story of the Master's life, to the secret of Pentecost, to the key note of Paul's unparalleled ministry, to the lives of saints and the deaths of martyrs, to all that is most sacred and sweet in the history of the church and the experience of the children of God. And when, for us, the last conflict shall have passed, and the footstool o prayers shall have given place to the harp of praise, the spots of time that shall be gilded with the most celestial and eternal radiance shall be those, often linked with deepest sorrow and darkest night, over which we have the inscription, "Jehovah-Shammah-the Lord was there !"-Bishop Simpson.

Hands Up, and Hands Down.

Many more are ever ready to throw p their hands in favor of a good cause than are willing to put their hands down, take hold of, and actually do the work needed to make the cause prosper. It is said that years ago, while in Detroit, Mr. Moody, having told about his work of sending religious literature to prisoners, suddenly asked: "How many of you believe in this work? Hold up your hands." Ur went a forest of hands. "That's right; that's good. Now put them down into your pockets, quick." Herein is indicated one of the secrets of Mr. Moody's great success-his readiness to back up proper approval with appropriate action. How true it is that, to say well is well, but to do well is divine .-Telescope

Do Something.

BY H. C. SPURGEON. Each member of a Christian church should be a worker for Christ. Our Lord has never granted a dispensation a single one of us; would any of us upon us all, without exception. Are we each obedient to His word, "Occudoing so, we can never enter into rest. Rest implies previous labor. We are bidden by the Holy Spirit to labor to enter into the rest of God; it is the fidgety, worried and worrying, fretful and fanciful, troubled and troublecompletely consecrated to the service Cheerfulness and sweetness of dis. of God, and most fully absorbed in obedience to His will.

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Have Not Seen the Plans. A gentleman who was walking near an unoccupied building one day saw a stonecutter chiseling patien'ly at a block of stone in front of him. The gentleman went up to him. 'S:ill merely necessary—the glad indulgence | chiseling?' he remarked, piessantly. "Yes, still chiseling," replied the workman, going on with his work The flowers must brighten us with | "In what part of the building does their beanty, and sweeten earth with | this stone belong?" asked the goutleman. "I don't koow," replied the exact, can never satisfy Him. He must | Then he went on chiseling, chiseling. Now, that is what we should do. We Master Architect, but each of us has by bread alone, either given or receiv- his work to do, and we should chisel away until it is done. - Michigan Ad-The best reforms of this earth come up through waste and storm and doubt and suspicion; the sun itself when it her little baby. How absurd it is! rises on each day wastes the radiance How utterly unmeaning! What waste of the moon and blots the starlight from the skies, but only to unlock the

> To be content to remain ignorant of what God has not thought proper to reveal, forms no inconsiderable part of Christian learning.

earth from the clasp of night and plant

the stars anew in the opening flowers.

ment, we may be sure there stands the

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