

CHURCH "GRAFT."

If the Christian church cannot get along without forcing unwilling contributions from the community, it would better shut its doors. Church "craft" is no new thing, but people are getting tired of it. There are signs of open protest in place of the grudging acquiescence and concealed contempt of the past.

It has been the custom in many cities and towns for churches to levy tribute upon merchants in various forms. For the church supper the grocer and the baker are expected to make gifts or ruinous discounts; for the church the storekeepers of all sorts are "held up" by the women of the congregation. Loss of custom is not exactly threatened as the penalty for refusal, but a merchant usually knows what will happen if he ventures to deny any request that has a church back of it.

The most modern form of church graft is the support of local church papers by means of advertising, and of conventions or other gatherings by advertising in programmes. There is a convenient fiction to the effect that this is a business transaction, in which so much valuable space is sold for a fair equivalent. Nobody is deceived by this, except possibly the good people who are getting their church printing done free. The merchant never hears from such advertisements, but he is not disappointed. He does not expect results. His attitude in the matter is either one of good-natured condescension, or of unwilling concession to a form of taxation intended to assure the good will of desirable customers who are easily offended.

It is hard to see how self-respecting churches can consent to put themselves in the position of merchants appealing for aid in carrying on the work of the congregation. The argument that only by advertising can church papers be kept up is a poor one. If the church cannot afford to pay for the small amount of weekly or monthly printing that is actually necessary, let it invest in a duplicating machine of some sort and do its own printing.

There are cases, of course, in which church papers may become really valuable advertising mediums, owing to enterprising management and large circulation, and advertisers may invest their money with the expectation of return. In such cases there is no "graft," and no loss of self-respect. But so long as the church persists in trying to make the world pay its bills, Christian beneficence will lag, religion will languish, and the ungodly will grin. — *Christendom.*

SOMETHING LACKING.

Many people become so absorbed in one pursuit that, like a tree near the edge of the forest, they grow one-sided; and their life always lacks something to complete its harmony. Many men and women grow crabbed and crusty as they grow old. A little change in their circumstances,— a wife, husband, child, anything to keep them from perpetually thinking about themselves and their troubles, and that would draw out and enlist their sympathies for others— would have kept them from becoming like Egyptian mummies in the midst of people of flesh and blood. We are such creatures of habit that any bad habit may soon become fixed upon us. One may be absorbed, even in the practical duties of life, to such an extent that he will neglect some things which would be of great advantage. As

an illustration of this, the following story is told of John Ericsson, the great inventor, and Ole Bull, the distinguished violinist:

"John Ericsson and Ole Bull were boys together in their native Sweden. John turned his mind to mechanics. Ole gave his soul to music. In after years, when both had become famous, they met in New York. The musician went into the shop where the merchant was wedded to the things of the industrial world, and said, 'John, come to Music Hall to-night, and hear me play.' 'No, Ole, I've no time for that.'

"If you don't, John, I'll come tomorrow and play in your shop.'

"Ole, if you bring your fiddle into my shop, I'll smash it.'

"But the musician came next day, nevertheless, and said: 'John, something is the matter with my instrument. It is a very choice one, and I wish that you would fix it for me.'

"At once the great mechanic was interested, and soon by his quick glance and masterly skill was able to re-adjust the arch of the sounding-board, which had become slightly strained. Then the musician sat on a bench, and drew the bow across the strings, to learn whether the alteration has restored the harmonious balance of his cherished violin. In a moment the workmen dropped their tools, drew near, and listened, with bated breath as the divine music filled all the air with its enchantment. Soon the music ceased; but Ericsson, with tears streaming down his face, said with choking voice to his old-time playmate: 'Go on, Ole, go on! I never knew before what was lacking in my life.—*Selected.*

KEEPING THE CONNECTION OPEN.

In driving between my Australian home and Melbourne I often stop at a wayside trough to give the horse a drink. I notice that the trough is quite full of water, and that there is a box at one end of it. As the horse drinks the water is lowered, and presently I hear a sound as of a running tap. Yes, the sound is coming from the box. That box is covering a piece of mechanism which needs no explaining. Within it there is a tap connected by pipes with the main reservoir up in the Plenty Ranges.

Attached by the lever to the tap is a metal ball which rests on the surface of the water. As the horse drinks, the water on which the ball is floating is lowered, and thus the ball is lowered. The lowering of the ball opens the tap, and the water begins to pour in, so that although the water is being withdrawn by the thirsty animal, a fresh supply is being poured in—the trough is "being filled," so that it is always "full."

Thus may it be with the soul of the believer. No matter what the outflow into the surrounding emptiness may be, or the withdrawals by thirsty, needy souls—there is the continual inflow, so that there may be the constant "fullness." It is ours to see to the connection away up among the hills of God being kept open to see that the tap is kept in proper working order by faith, prayer and meditation.—*Rev. John McNeill.*

Christians who do not believe that their life-work is to make money where-with to buy city lots, elegant houses, much fine raiment, and the favor of men—but do believe in laying up treasures in heaven, where their hearts are—would very likely be called peculiar by some of the world's people.

AUGUST 20TH.

JOHN J. WEDDALL & SON

The First
Choice is
Always the
Best, and
Inspection
Solicited.

Have Opened Their

FALL COATS.

John J. Weddall & Son,
AGENTS FOR STANDARD PATTERNS.
FREDERICTON, N. B.

Most important I think it is for you to get out of that strange idea that you ought to understand the meaning, or at least a consistent meaning, in every passage in the Bible. I can't conceive an odder mistake, especially in a person who believes it to be the Word of God, a book not for one man or age, but for all. You will certainly make a mess of the Bible till you can have patience with it. 'Tis as large as nature, and as deep and as simple, and must be dealt with in the same way.—*James Hinton.*

Pleuritic Pains Cured.

Danger signal, prompt treatment is essential. Bathe the region of pain immediately with Nerviline and pour Nerviline on brown paper, and bind quickly over the affected part. Quicker than mustard, more effective and so prompt that the further progress of the malady is checked at once, all pains inside or outside yield just as quickly to Nerviline, and your druggist sells it.

There is a Russian story of one who entered a diamond-mine in search of great riches. He filled his pockets with great gems, and then threw them away to make room for larger ones. At length, he became very thirsty, but there was no water there. He heard the flow of rivers, but they were rivers of gems; and he hastened forward at the sound of a waterfall, but it was a cascade of jewels. He was very rich in precious stones, but he was dying of thirst, and his riches were worse than useless.

A Good Medicine requiring little advertising.— Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil gained the good name it now enjoys, not through elaborate advertising, but on its great merits as a remedy for bodily pains and ailments of the respiratory organs. It has carried its fame with it wherever it has gone, and it is prized at the antipodes as well as at home. Dose small; effect sure.

The word peculiar is often used to signify something wrong or disagreeable about the person or people to whom it is applied. Wrong-headed, wrong hearted, rarely wicked people may sometimes be called peculiar. People differing widely from these may be peculiar, too.

AUTUMN FROSTS

and the piercing winds of the fall season warn us to prepare for the winter's cold. Now is the time when colds are taken which the rigorous season prevents shaking off, thus frequently causing consumption and death. At this time a few bottles of

GATES' Life of Man Bitters

will be found the best thing obtainable for building up the system and fortifying it against disease. Don't wait until you are sick. Prevention is better than cure. Get it now.

C. GATES, SON & CO.,
MIDDLETON, N. S.

FREE TO ALL A Silver Plated Teapot.

Consumers of National Blend Tea, without doubt the best Blend Tea on the market, when you have bought twenty pounds you will receive a Silver Plated Teapot free of charge.

The cheapest House in town to buy Flour.

D.W. Estabrook & Sons.

York St. and Westmorland,
FREDERICTON, N. B.