

Our Contributors.

Sunday Funerals Should Be Discouraged.

The title of this article applies as a general rule, but, like other rules, there may be exceptions to it. We will undertake to give in a short space a few hints as to why we believe the Sunday funeral should become a custom of the past.

In the first place, it savors of vanity. To a great many people appearances claim the priority of attention. A large funeral, a big demonstration, an opportunity for the scribe to comment upon the popularity and worth of the deceased as evidenced by those external manifestations, appeal to the vanity of those who are directly concerned.

Again, it encourages greed. Is it not to be feared that in towns and cities the owners of coaches prefer Sunday funerals because of their commercial value to them? Sunday is an off day, fewer trains and boats to attend than on any other day. Does not the truth apply, also, to business men and tradesmen, to farmers and laborers? It requires no sacrifice of time or money to bury the dead on Sunday. Then, the Sunday funeral often, indeed almost always, deprives some congregations of the only opportunity they have for a preaching service on that day, and frequently it transpires that the opportunity does not return again for two or four weeks. And the disappointment is often keener and the sense of loss intensified, by the fact that the congregations assemble and wait and wonder why the minister does not come, he not having communicated the explanation, because he has had no opportunity to do so since making the engagement to attend the funeral.

Many ministers plan for consecutive sermons for the instruction and salvation of their congregations, and the Sunday funeral frequently interferes with these plans.

Is it right that an entire community shall have withdrawn from them this privilege of hearing the Gospel preached, and to be thus disappointed, in order that others may have their vanity and greed ministered unto? If it is correct that the Sunday funeral encourages the vanity and greed of some people, and deprives congregations of the preached Gospel, disarranges the plans of the minister for the good of his charge, they should, for these reasons alone, to say nothing of others, be discontinued. Let us hope that the day may not be far distant when the righteousness of the present agitation for doing away with Sunday funerals shall become so apparent to all that the custom shall be entirely set aside.

HARTLEIGH.

THE INSTALMENT PLAN.

This article from the *Journal and Messenger* is, we think, very sensible and timely:

An observer cannot fail to notice the increased efforts to sell goods on the "instalment plan." Of course the profits must be enormous to cover the cost of this method and losses. We have known instalment houses which canvass-

ed a city for household goods, to sell articles for which the purchaser really had no use, or which she could have done without, for four or five times their real value. One salesman explaining how he was beaten, said, he sold an article to a woman who came into the store for \$10. She could only pay \$1.50 down. That was satisfactory—the balance to be paid at the rate of fifty cents a month. When the collector went for the first month's payment the woman had left the city. But he added that the \$1.50 nearly covered the whole cost of the article. Lately we regret to see that some book publishers are trying this plan. Probably there are few persons likely to buy books who do not receive circulars offering a set of books, sometimes with a periodical thrown in, for fifty cents down, the remainder to be paid in instalments, running on, perhaps a year, sometimes two years. The scheme is seductive. Fifty cents or a dollar a month is not much. But, oh, the wearisomeness of it before the task is finished! One does not even have the satisfaction of saving money, as in depositing in a savings' bank. He is secretly conscious that he would never have bought the article for cash, even if he had had the money at the time. It is one long grind. He very likely comes to learn that he has paid twice what the books were worth. He must have paid more than they are worth, or the publisher could not afford to sell them in this way.

A favorite scheme with the instalment houses is to offer a small discount for cash, say \$6.50 for a set of books on payments, or \$6 cash. The difference is purposely made small, to give the purchaser the impression that he is buying at about the cash price. So we have sets of books, with illustrations, for forty dollars. Illustrations from half-tone photographs, are not costly to-day. The text of most of such instalment books which we have examined is twaddle. A few big names may be hitched on, and the purchaser thinks he is getting a rare or valuable set of books that will give him social standing. The principle of the instalment plan of purchase of goods, including books, is altogether vicious. Men properly borrow money to be used in productive enterprises. It is often a good thing for a young man to buy a farm under mortgage and work it out. Most business is done on credit. Business men must usually discount notes in the banks. This is all legitimate business, and the wheels of industry could scarcely be kept in motion otherwise. But a necessity of going in debt for goods for consumption, to be used up, is most unfortunate, and to be resorted to only in case of dire necessity. Better do without an article of household furniture than to buy it on the instalment plan. One cannot afford to buy books of a publisher who offers them in this way, even for cash, because the publisher will not dare to sell him as low as he ought, lest it throw suspicion on his instalment price. He must "stand pat" on the instalment price he has fixed, offering only a little discount which will not interfere with his instalment business. If one must save money to buy an article by litters, save first. Put it away in a box, or deposit it in a savings' bank. Ten to one, when once a person has saved enough to buy the article in question, he will find that he can get something better for less than half the money, or that he can buy far better articles of regular dealers for the same money. And this is true of the book business. If one is not able to buy the same books for less, he can often get others on the subject that are far better, for less than half the price of the instalment publishers.

KAFFIRS AND CIVILIZATION.

"The Kaffirs of South Africa, like the American Indians, do not appear to thrive under the renning influences of civilization," said Mr. Herbert George, of Johannesburg to a *Washington Post* reporter. "Before the civilization of this generation appeared, the Kaffir knew nothing of consumption, typhus, measles, scarlet fever and other ailments which followed in the wake of the white man.

"The savage Kaffir was a robust individual, with no knowledge of ordinary sickness. He rubbed himself all over with grease and red clay, and the shirt he put on remained until he wore it into rags. He never bathed. If exposed to rain, he stripped off his kaross, folded it very tight, strapped it up and blithely went on his way, naked as he was born, never a bit the worse for such exposure. Now-a-days, thanks to copying after the Anglo-Saxon, the Kaffir wears clothes, but hasn't sense enough when he gets wet through to change his garments, suffering for his lack of wisdom later. As a result of their changed habits, maladies that were unknown to them fifty years ago are now common with the natives, and they will speedily decline in numbers just as your red men have."



TOO LITTLE BLOOD.

Is the Cause of Most of the Misery in Everyday Life—Improve the Blood and Disease will not Exist.

Among the many thousands who testify to the value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills as a blood and nerve tonic is Miss Mary Jackson, Normandale, Ont., who says: "I have used Dr. Williams' Pink Pills and have derived such great benefit from them that I consider it my duty to let others know their worth. For upwards of three years I suffered from anæmia, and grew so weak that I could scarcely walk about the house. I had no color in my face, my lips and gums were bloodless, I lost all ambition, suffered from headaches and dizziness, and fell away in weight until I weighed only ninety-four pounds. I doctored a great deal, but it did not seem to do me any good. I was then advised to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and before I had taken them ten days I felt better, and my people could see a change in me. I continued using the pills for some weeks and am now in the very best health. Every depressing symptom has passed away, and I have gained fourteen pounds in weight. I think there is no medicine can equal Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and I strongly recommend them to all weak and ailing girls."

Miss Jackson's experience should bring hope to all weak, ailing girls and women. What those pills have done for her, they will do for others. Every dose adds tone and vigor to the blood and nerves, brings a glow of health to shallow cheeks, a sparkle to the eyes, and a ruby redness to pallid lips. No other medicine has done so much to bring comfort and health to weak girls and women. If you are ailing, give the pills a fair trial and new health and strength will be yours. Do not accept any pink colored substitute; the genuine pills always have the full name, "Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," printed on the wrapper around every box. Sold by medicine dealers everywhere, or by mail at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by writing The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

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