

OUR HOUSES OF PRAYER.

WHERE THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN WORSHIP.

Interesting Statistics Concerning the Churches of the City—The Wealthiest Church in St. John—The Number of Communicants.

About every nine hundred persons in St. John have a church, chapel mission or other place of worship which is entirely their own. There are distributed among our city's population of about 45,000 people fifty or more different institutions for the interpretation of the Gospel, the praise of God, and the improvement of man.

There is in the city a church property valued at nearly two million dollars and about \$175,000 are raised annually for the support of the churches. When figured are massed in this way some idea can be gathered of the magnitude of church effort and its importance in the community, and people can begin to appreciate what a responsibility rests upon the churches to put to the best uses the immense interests entrusted to their keeping so that they will be most productive of good. These figures, too do not represent all, for besides the monies raised there is the immense amount of time that is given gratuitously to the churches by hundreds of workers, which, if it could be represented in money, would swell the possessions of the churches immensely.

The churches are divided among the different congregations as follows: episcopal 9; methodist 7; presbyterian 6; baptist 6; Roman catholic 5; free baptist 3; congregational 1; reformed presbyterian independent 1; reformed baptist 1; christian 1; African methodist episcopal 1; a total of 42. But besides these there are five Salvation Army corps, 6 to 8 missions and two or three sects who do not possess houses of worship but meet in rooms.

Of the protestant bodies the episcopal are the strongest numerically and financially. In the statistical tables given below the baptists appear the strongest in number of communicants but there are quite a number of non-resident communicants in the baptist church rolls, more than there are on the rolls of the other churches probably, and these swell the number. The baptists will, however, follow the episcopals closely, the methodists and presbyterians are close together some distance behind and then come the free baptists. In financial wealth the episcopals are far in the lead, then come methodists, presbyterians, baptists and free baptists.

The wealthiest church in the city is Trinity with a property worth between \$225,000 and \$250,000. The church and school house cost about \$100,000, of which about \$20,000 is the value of the memorial windows, organ, altar, &c. Then the church possesses a valuable amount of real estate situated on the south corner of King and Charlotte streets and consisting of several buildings. On the assessment lists of the city it is valued at \$91,000, and this is probably an under-estimate. Then the church owns the land upon which the church is built, and considerable bank stock, and has the dispensing for charity purposes of the interest on some trust funds.

When the church was built the trustees had \$55,000 in money. The remainder required was obtained by the issue of bonds on their real estate. The rent roll of the corporation amounts to \$6,736 and provides the bulk of the amount required for maintenance. Besides having the largest capital of the city churches it raised the largest amount of money, the amount raised in 1893 being over \$11,500.

Trinity obtained its wealth from the glebe lands which were given to the church when the city was founded and from gifts and bequests of prominent members, notably that of Chas. Merritt. St. John's church and St. James' say that Trinity is not entitled to all this property; that when these two parishes were set off Trinity kept all the property to itself whereas the two new parishes were entitled to a share.

Next in wealth to Trinity comes St. Andrew's presbyterian with a valuation of about \$100,000 and with an amount raised during the year proceeding the summer of 1894 of almost \$8,800. St. Andrew's possesses considerable real estate between Queen and St. Andrews street and it is assessed in the city list for \$24,000, though its value has been given at \$30,000. The church and lot are valued at \$70,000.

Now comes Centenary methodist with a valuation of \$88,600 and an amount raised for all purposes during the conference year 1893-4 of over \$8000. It is, however, stated that during the last calendar year over \$9000 was raised by this church. Then follow in order in amount of contributions raised St. David's presbyterian, German street baptist, St. John's episcopal and St. Stephen's presbyterian.

The Main street baptist church has the largest number of communicants enrolled. Of their 521 over a hundred are nonresident but even taking these away there would be about 400 resident communicants which would be a larger number even than any of the other churches here.

Compared with these big figures, the large numbers, possessions and revenues of these churches, the smallness of the figures that tell of the income of the Salvation Army and then consider how much more proportionately the workers in the army accom-

plish in the way of real practical work, work that brings happiness to men. The aim of men on earth should be to bring happiness to their fellow men, and commensurately with their means the Salvation Army here accomplished a great deal more than the churches. Of the amount of over \$5,200 which was raised by the army, \$3,800 was for local purposes, \$716 was the result of the self denial and \$700 or \$800 was for the rescue work.

The statistics which are here given were obtained almost entirely from the statistical reports presented last summer to the governing bodies of the various denominations on their annual meetings. They cover the year from the summer of 1893 to 1894. The table of monies raised give the total amounts contributed for all purposes and church funds, etc. The figures relating to the church property of the presbyterian and episcopalian bodies were obtained from members of those denominations.

Table with columns: Denomination, Number of Communicants, Amt. money raised for all purposes, 1893, Valuation of church property. Includes rows for Episcopalians, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, Free Baptists, and a Summary.

Summary: Episcopalians 1820 \$3,917.80 400,000; Baptists 1833 19,901.00 102,500; Methodists 1318 19,574.16 240,750; Presbyterians 1225 28,440.00 203,000; Free Baptists 1059 6,676.52 22,100.

Easing His Conscience. The doctor had told Farmer Chawhay that his hours were numbered. Then the good old man beckoned the physician to his side.

"Doctor," said he, "there is something I order tell you 'fore I go." "All right," answered the doctor. "It is only this, doctor; I been a sort of hippocrit for these last twenty years. All the women folks has given me credit for being so true to Sarah Ann's memory that I never marrit again, an' I've allowed 'em to think that was the reason. Truth is, them there fifteen years I lived with Sarah Ann gimme all the experience in marrit life that I wanted; an' that's the reason I stayed a widower."

At a Pinch. There was to be a wedding in a little country church and the "contracting pair," who had many friends, were in doubt as to whether there would be room for them all. Accordingly the young man called upon the sexton.

"How many will the church seat?" he inquired. "The sexton was silent for a minute or two, evidently engaged in a mental calculation. "We-ell, ord'narily," he said, "it'll seat 'bout 300; but if some'll sit with their legs hangin' over the organ loft, I guess it'll seat 310."

A German-town bride grew indignant when her grocer asked if she wanted any cracked wheat. She replied that she could afford to buy the very best.

The Stone-Throwers. They stood upon the crowded pier, A summer's day, and gathered there Were rich and poor, and grave and gay, For all had friends home-bound that day. And when some sharp-eyed watcher spoke, And pointed to a line of smoke To westward, the eager crowd 'gan press In hurried anxious recklessness To the pier's edge, and in the van Was one who trembled, and whose wan Checks and eager looks showed faint. Even through the scarlet woman's paint. "Mother," she murmured, as she peered With sin-burned eyes. Then at her sneered In virtuous rage, some well-born dame— Doting wivess whose sullied names Were "bar-room talk"—and closer drew Their anointed skirts. Then rose a hue And cry, and then a sudden splash, And through the gaping crowd a dash Was made by a young man, but he Was held. They said, "It's only she, That painted creature." And the wivess, Who'd always led such virtuous lives, Gazed from their pious evry down, And said, "Oh, let the busy drown!" Then ribald jokes came from the crowd, And one cheap jester called out loud, And set the thoughtless in a roar With, "Aw, she's a 'chip.' She'll float ashore." Meanwhile the youth leaped in the tide, And struggled hard until the side Of the pier was reached—then paused a space For gathered strength. No pitying face Looked down. No proffered aid. Alone his perilous way he made Until the top was reached, and then, Spoke he, "Back! Back, you curs of men!" And when a space had th been made Turned to the dripping girl, and said: "Down! Down upon your wretched knees, And thank your God you're not like these!"

THE GENUS BOOK-AGENT.

"ASTRA" WRITES IN DEFENCE OF THIS CLASS.

She Pictures Their Unhappy Lot, and Tells of her Experience With Them—Only Twice in her Life was a Book Agent Impertinent to Her.

It may be a singular taste, but I confess that I do love a travelling agent! I don't mean that my affections are set upon any particular one of the knights of the road, but I have a decided leaning towards him as a class. Not the lordly drummer, who "takes the road" with his cases of samples, and only does business with wholesale houses, but the house to house canvasser, who calls at your door during the very busiest part of the day, usually on washing days, and who persists in making you look at things you don't want, assuring you that you need not buy a cent's worth, and almost giving you the impression that he would really prefer keeping his stock intact, to selling any of it.

I am perfectly willing to admit that the travelling agent is frequently very annoying; he obstinately refuses to see when his intended victim is pressed for time, and he will camp on your front doorstep, or inside your hall, and unstrap his samples, after you have told him that you are due at the station in five minutes to catch the last train, with just the same deliberation as if you had merely been telling him that you had half an hour to spare, and would be pleased to devote it, to him. But still this very obtuseness in accepting intended rebuffs is part of his stock in trade, and must have been carefully cultivated, or it could never have reached its present state of perfection. Whoever heard of a shy and retiring book agent, for instance, and of what use would he be in the scheme of creation if he did exist? None at all, the moment he showed signs of mental weakness, in the form of modesty, his usefulness would be gone, and he would be placed upon the retired list at once.

It requires time to study this interesting genus properly, and not everyone would consider the game worth the powder, but I confess I have found the gentleman of the road amply repay me for all the time I have spent upon him; and the result of my observations has been, that I only wonder he is not more objectionable instead of less, considering the treatment he receives from most people. It seems to be a matter of popular belief that a travelling agent is a sort of common enemy of man, upon whom common courtesy, and ordinary civility would be quite thrown away, and therefore the only way to treat him is with the grossest rudeness, to simply insult him, if possible, and then there would be the less probability of the same one ever coming a second time.

I wonder how many of us ever stop to think of the hardships of a travelling man's life, of the weary miles he walks day after day through summer heat and winter cold, often with clothing which is sadly inadequate to protect him from the cold? How bitterly discouraging it must be to tramp from door to door always unwelcome, never sure of the reception he will meet with, telling the same monotonous story, and using the same hackneyed argument at each house, in the hope of making a sale, and nearly always meeting the same unfriendly stare, the same discouragement.

I know people who consider themselves well bred, and refined above their fellows, and yet who consider it the proper thing to slam the door in the face of a travelling agent the moment he begins the fatal sentence—"I have called this morning to see if I can show you—"

Is it any wonder this class of men become hardened after a time, and finally combine a very ready impertinence with their always ample stock of assurance. People are rough and rude to them, and why should they not return such treatment in kind?

But yet what good natured fellows they often are after all, and how far a pleasant word goes with them! I never heard an impertinent word except on two occasions, from one, and I firmly believe it is because I always make a point of thanking them for calling, even when I don't look at their goods. Perhaps they don't appreciate the humor of the situation too, and chuckle to themselves over the idea of any one being grateful to an agent for calling. Many a whimsical glance I have caught from the eyes of a retiring knight of the road, as he responded affably—"No trouble at all, I assure you; good morning." How well the poor fellows know that they are almost universally detested, and how surprised they are at being treated with ordinary politeness. I suppose they get hardened to the feeling in time, and it becomes a sort of joke.

Not very long ago an agent with a well-developed sense of humor, called upon us just after we had moved into a new house; we had been using the axe to open a packing box, and the glittering weapon had been left in full view leaning against the hall table. It was summer, and all the doors were open, so when I came downstairs to answer his ring, the first thing that caught my eye was the axe, and the next was the agent's eye, wandering in the same direction. "I see you are prepared for travelling agents, and always keep the axe handy," he said cheerfully, and though there was nothing I wanted amongst his

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Fry's PURE CONCENTRATED COCOA.

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"line of samples" we parted with the best of feeling on both sides. There is one travelling agent who calls at our house regularly twice a year, and if he should ever stop coming I would miss him just as much as if I had ever bought anything from him. He sells a special line of patent starch, or patent gloss for starch, I forget which, and as we never by any chance have any shirts, collars, or cuffs done up in the house, and none of us could do up a shirt if our lives depended on it, we have not succeeded in "coming to a trade" so far; but still he calls, and still he and I exchange cheerful conversation, and part with mutual expressions of esteem. Perhaps he hopes to convert me in time to the advantages of having shirts laundered at home, and using the unrivalled shirt polish he was introducing.

The only time my winning smile utterly failed to make any impression on a travelling agent, was when the agent in question had taken up his calling too late in life to be susceptible to the gentle influence of feminine smiles. In fact he was the funniest specimen of a knight of the road that I ever saw. He could not have been a day under 65, and he wore a battered straw hat of the "cow's breakfast" type, a flannel shirt, and the rest of his costume was of a uniform butternut tint. Under one arm he carried a very dirty copy of a "story paper". It was of the blood curdling variety as far as the stories went, and the illustrations forcibly reminded one of the Police Gazette, but he loudly ordered me to subscribe, and when I declined in the most polite terms, I regret to say that he became not only impertinent but very abusive.

"Ye don't want it, don't ye?" he yelled, "D'ye know why ye don't? Ye couldn't read it if ye had it, that's what's the matter with you. Ye want to learn to read, you do?"

If ever I yearned for a good reliable dog with an appetite for butternut colored homespun trousers, I did then. Would'n't I have sicked him on, and given him every encouragement to help that dear old person out of the yard?

But that, I think, was a very isolated case, and as a rule the travelling agent sets an example of politeness to those he calls upon, than otherwise, and it would be a step in the right direction if we would all try to remember that after all he is a human being like ourselves—a man who is trying to earn a decent living, whose bread and butter depends upon the sales he makes from day to day, and who has good reason to be eager for business. Very often he is a gentleman, driven by misfortune to earn his bread in this hardest of ways, and dislikes the business quite as much as we dislike him, but he must work, or starve.

If we thought of this, I am sure we would have more patience with and show a little politeness to, that much abused man—the travelling agent. ASTRA.

The Fourth President to Resign.

Casimir-Perier is the fourth president of the French republic who has been compelled to resign by the operation of hostile parliamentary coalitions or by finding public sentiment too powerful for an administration to overcome. They were forced out of office by a combination of the elements hostile to him with the element hostile to the republic. MacMahon, who succeeded Thiers, and who was a monarchist at heart, found the republicans too strong for him. As Gambetta was too strong for the republicans, he chose between submitting to resigning, and he resigned. Grevy was the only president of the republic who served out a term for which he was elected, but he was forced to resign early in his second term by the operation of the scandal in which his brother-in-law, Daniel Wilson, was involved. Carnot had some months of his term to serve when he perished by the assassin's knife. Casimir-Perier had not been president quite seven months.

THE PROPRIETORS

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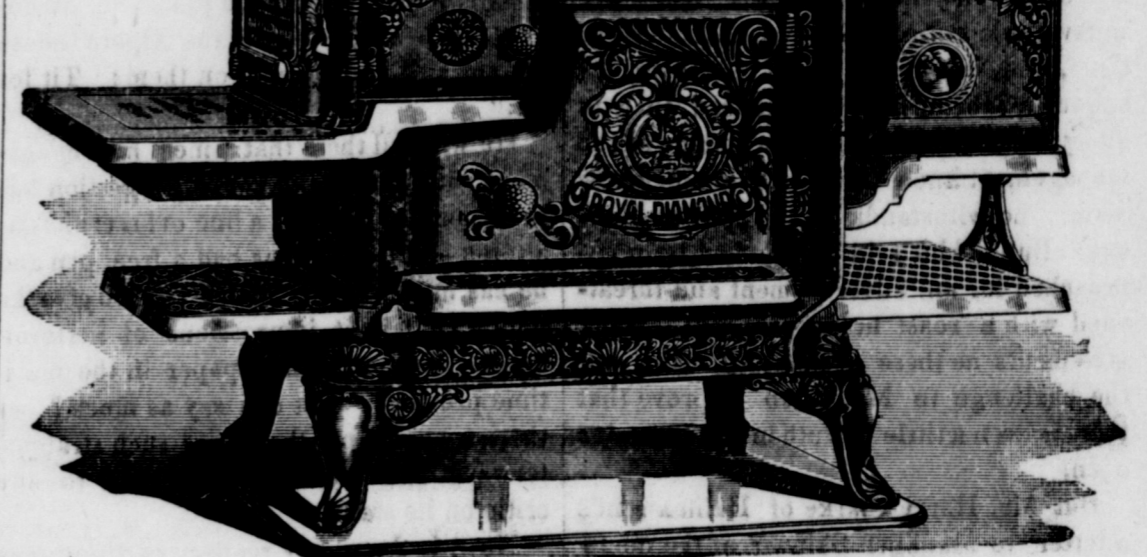
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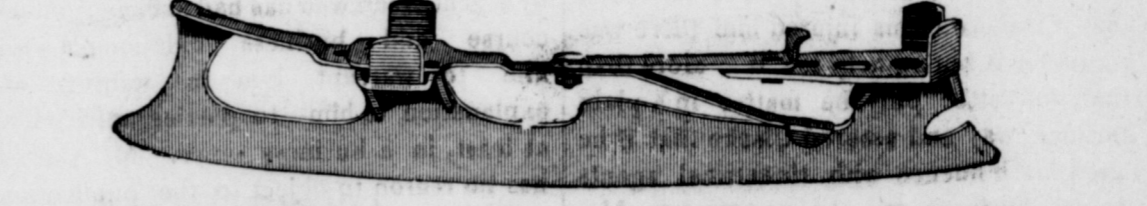
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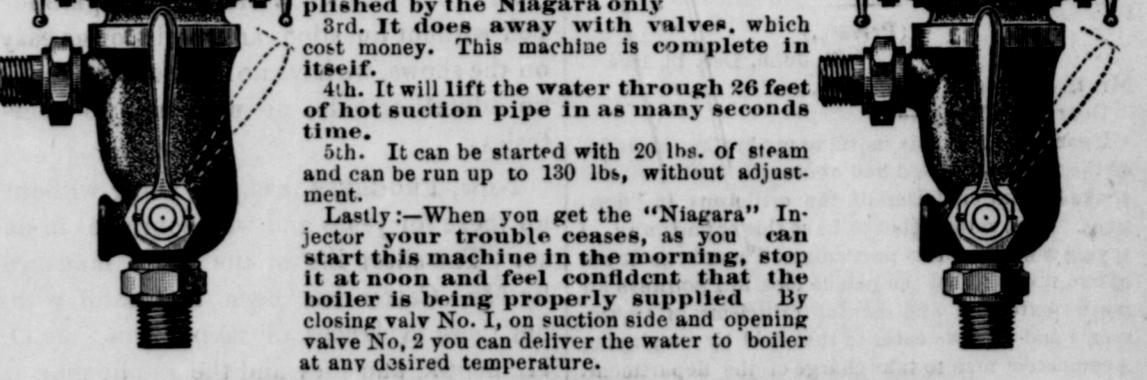
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