

the Bible study very interesting and helpful. We also have some very helpful readings, recitations, and special singing. Sometimes we have what is called a "Calendar Meeting". Numbers and verses from a Scripture Calendar are cut out and passed around, and then each person comments on his verse. We are putting on a Missionary program the 31st of January. Special meetings will be starting soon. Pray for us that we may see a revival here at Calais.

Yours in His Service,

MARGUERITE WILSON, Reporter.

#### EMPTY SEATS

"Are you going to church this morning, Susie?" asked Dr. Clark, lying back in his easy chair, with the morning paper. "A doctor who is out day and night can't be expected."

"No, I made jelly yesterday, and I'm tired. I'm faithful enough to stay at home this cloudy morning", and Mrs. Clark curled up on the couch with the Bible she had not opened for a week, but it soon dropped from her hand. She was aroused by a strange voice saying,

"Now, my good imps, what have you done today to weaken the kingdom of God?"

The voice came from a suspicious looking personage seated on a throne of human skulls. Around him was gathered a crowd of terrible beings, each with a crown of fire, in which gleamed some name, such as malice, envy, pride, hatred, and kindred passions.

"We have been busy today, making empty seats in churches", began one.

"Nothing could please me better", answered their king.

"I persuaded one man that he had a headache, and kept him from a sermon that might have changed his whole life", said one.

"I induced one good man to slip to his store and fix up his books", said another, with a horrid grin.

"Good!" said the king. "He'll soon give up the Sabbath altogether."

"I was able to get one devoted young man to visit some old friends", said one imp.

"I worried a good sister about her old bonnet until she decided to stay home until she got a new one", spoke up the imp labeled 'Fride'

"To make ladies think that their servants need no Sunday privileges is good", suggested one.

"Very true", said his superior. "As long as we can get Christian people to cause or allow men and women to work during work hours, we can keep many empty seats in churches, and men and women away from God."

"I'm the weather imp", said one gloomy fellow. "I go around persuading people it is going to rain, or it is too cold, too damp or too hot to venture out to church. It is enough to make even your gloomy majesty laugh to see these same people start out the next day in wind and weather. One would think it a sin to carry umbrellas and wear gum coats to church."

"Confidentially", answered the king, "when I find a Christian who has no more concern about weather Sunday than Monday—determined to make as much effort for spiritual gain as he would for worldly profit—I just give him up. It's no use to try to drag back the man or woman who goes to God's house in all kinds of weather."

"I have a better scheme than that", said another. "These people you keep away are indifferent—generally—good-for-nothing folks, who are hardly worth getting into the kingdom of his Satanic majesty, but I have a plan that empties seats of the workers in the church."

"That is just what we want", said the king.

"I make these people overwork on Saturdays. For instance, I make some good man the preacher depends upon, or some devout Sunday-school teacher, to make Saturday the busiest day of the week. I just keep him rushed with neglected things till late at night, and then he oversleeps or is sick the next day, and can't get out."

"Splendid plan!" cried Satan.

"Yes, it works well with delicate women. If they clean house, or have Saturday company, they can be kept home without knowing they have broken the Sabbath the day before."

"You are doing finely, my imps", his majesty said warmly—for his breath was a flame of fire. "Preachers may work and pray over their sermons all week, but—there will be no results in preaching to empty seats. One of the most important things we have to consider is how to keep people away from churches on Sunday. Your plans are excellent, but I might suggest another good point. All preachers have human imperfections—some fault of manner of speech. Get Christians to criticise their pastor, especially before their children.

If you can stir up a spirit of fault-finding against the preacher, or among the members, it will help empty seats. People who get mad at each other do not care to go to church together. If the seats are empty, the minister may be a saint and preach like an angel to no purpose. See the result of your labor on High street church today. Not only did the 200 people who stayed at home lose a blessing, but each empty seat did its work against the Lord's kingdom. The preacher made unusual preparation, and went with his heart on fire, but the empty seats chilled him, and he did poorly. There was a special collection, but the best givers were away, so it was a failure. It isn't a fine preacher, nor a rich congregation, nor a good location, nor a paid choir, that makes a successful church. It is the church members always being there that draws in the unconverted, and makes an eloquent preacher. As soon as a Christian begins to stay at home, for one excuse or another, I know I have a mortgage on his soul which, if he does not shake off, I will foreclose on the judgment.

"You have none on mine," cried Mrs. Clark, who had been listening with bated breath; "I'll go to church, if only to defeat you."

"What's the matter, dear?" asked the doctor. "Have you been dreaming?"

"Perhaps so; but I'm going to church if I get to my seat just in time for the benediction. I'll cheat Satan from this day out of one empty seat." She has kept her word, and influenced many others to let nothing trifling keep them from God's house; and one "down-town" church has begun to grow, and will soon be a great power for God, because of no "empty seats."—Selected.

There is Strength that comes from muscle (that is useful in a tussle).

There is Strength that comes from riches, there is Strength from pride of birth.

But the finest Strength for living is the Strength that comes from giving

All the Strength we have already to the weak ones of the earth.

The key to every man is his thought. Sturdy and defying though he look, he has a helm which he obeys, which is the idea after which all his facts are classified. He can only be reformed by showing him a new idea which commands his own.—Emerson.

## Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

### TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY BRITISH DOCTORS DENOUNCE BEER

The advertising campaign of the brewers in Great Britain and its declared objective to induce the beer drinking habit in "millions of young men", has drawn adverse comment from various directions. Not the least of these is a protest signed by 260 of the leading physicians in England. The list includes many eminent men and is made up of abstainers and non-abstainers. Part of their protest is as follows:

"As the result of several causes and tendencies there has been a vast improvement in national sobriety in recent years. There has also been a corresponding diminution in the disease, poverty, crime and inefficiency which are traceable to drink. The beverage use of alcohol is not really necessary to the highest exercise of individual and social life. We therefore deprecate the initiation of an effort to promote the beer drinking habit among the young, and we would regard the success of such a campaign as a step backward and as detrimental to the best interests of individual and national welfare."

—Temperance Advocate.

#### A TRUE INCIDENT

A number of years ago at a temperance meeting, a certain learned clergyman spoke in favor of wine as a drink, and quite to his own satisfaction demonstrated that its use was gentlemanly, healthful and scriptural. At the close of his speech an elderly gentleman arose and asked permission to say a few words. "A young friend of mine", he said, "who had long been intemperate, was at length prevailed upon, to the great joy of his friends to take the pledge of entire abstinence from all that could intoxicate. He kept the pledge faithfully for some time, struggling with his habit fearfully, till one evening in a social party, glasses of wine were handed around. They came to a clergyman present, who took a glass saying a few words in vindication of the practice, 'Well', thought the young man, 'if a clergyman can take wine and justify it so well, why not I?' So he took a glass. It instantly rekindled his slumbering appetite, and after a downward course, he died of delirium tremens—died a raving madman." Then the old man paused for utterance and was just able to add, "That young man was my son, and that clergyman was the Rev. Doctor who has just addressed this assembly."

#### WE DON'T KNOW ALL

To assume the pose that we are above mistakes is absurd; better far admit most frankly if we occupy a prominent position before the public, that we make mistakes, many of them, and we expect to go on making them so long as we live. This will dispose of any claim to infallibility, but it will place us on much firmer ground, and help men to realise that we are just as human as they. This, in itself, does not alienate men, but rather draws them to us. Teachers, professors, preachers and above all, parents, had better be ready to admit that they are by no means omniscient, and not by any means free from blunders. Don't try to stand on any pedestal; it isn't safe and it isn't wise.—Selected

They are never alone that are accompanied with noble thoughts.—Sir Philip Sidney.