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THE MORNING GUARDIAN

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1904.

RELIGIOUS PESSIMISM.

The Universalist Leader of Boston, which cherishes the "larger hope" in regard to the life beyond, takes a very gloomy view of the present status of the Christian church. The Leader declares the church to be starved to death by its friends, emaciated and weakened, "a once regal figure that now stands with outstretched hands pitifully pleading the privilege to live." It sees the world stranded on the rocks of sin, in imminent danger of appalling disaster. "The world has gone pleasure-mad; the object of all work is to get money for physical gratification; the cars and steamboats are jammed with crowds seeking artificial excitement and in summer the churches are closed, once for weeks, now for months; once to give the minister a rest, now to give the people an opportunity for cheap pleasure.

And the leader declares the decadence of the church is not so much due to these conditions as these conditions are due to the decadence of the church. The church has ceased to be what it was, a place where the people meet to worship God, and has become "a social center, a lectureship, a school, a college, a literary society, a place of amusement, a bazaar, a library, a soup kitchen an employment bureau, or a political caucus." Obviously this is not true of the evangelical churches in Canada to any such extent as of the churches in the United States, but may we not be slowly drifting in the same direction? The Leader proceeds to hold the ministers primarily and the laity in only less degree responsible for the absence of soul life in the churches. To the ministers it says:

"You have sold your divine birthright for a mess of pottage. You have not stuck to your calling, you run after every scheme of saving the world by fiat, or by vote or by purchase, or by organization, or by institution, when there is no other name under heaven by which the world can be saved except Christ Jesus; and if you do not believe that, what are you doing in the Christian ministry? You know ten times as much about the Bible as the Fathers did, but you do not know as much Bible; you know all the theories of prayer, but you do not pray. You are the victims of every fad; you had rather quote Browning than Jesus Christ; you had rather lecture on the North Pole than to preach the gospel; you had rather write a popular novel than to write a sermon; you ride your hobbies, you get up excursions, you give entertainments, you take upan agency or run a hotel, anything, everything except sticking to your calling to which you are called of God".

This is surely plain speaking. We think the judgment would be a harsh one indeed were it applied to the Gospel ministers in Canada. But the modern Jeremiah is quite as severe with the laity as with the ministers. He declares that the men and women of the church do not take the church seriously. Business, politics, education are treated as of vastly more importance. Church members will spend ten times as much on a two week's vacation as they do on a year's food for their immortal souls. "You have no sense of obligation to your church; you give to that if you have anything to spare, but you 'pay' your bills at the grocery." All of which is rather sombre reading for both ministers and members of churches, but it is still worth thinking over.

Another moon has been discovered for the planet Saturn, making nine in all which revolve about that strange world. One of these is over 4,000 miles in diameter. They are widely distributed as to distance, the nearest to the planet being less than half the distance of our own moon from the earth, while the moon latest discovered is more than eight million miles away and requires about eighteen months to complete its passage around its orbit. If Saturn be inhabited its people must look out upon a most resplendent sky in the night time. Its stupendous illuminated rings and nine moons, three or four of which may be visible at the same time, must form a splendid spectacle such as is never seen on earth.

A neat morning sack of white India linen, trimmed with bands of red, and white stripped linen. A turnover collar and chemisette of white embroidery, and narrow red ribbon ties under the collar complete an attractive little house garment.

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The day of operations for piles is past for all who know of the efficacy of Dr. Chase's Ointment as a cure for this horrible ailment. It does'nt matter what form of piles you have, so long as you use Dr. Chase's Ointment carefully and plentifully it will soon bring relief and cure. Ask your friends and neighbors what they know about this preparation.

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Mr. Wise—A woman who isn't curious.

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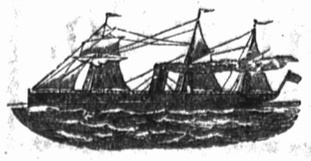

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