

For the Torch of Reason.

The Saints in New York City.

BY W. E. JOHNSON.

Presbyterianism in New York city is in a bad way. The Fifth Avenue Presbyterian joss house is empty. The brethren can not agree upon a preacher. Some want hell fire preached and some don't. The pastor of the Fourth Avenue church has been caught by some of the trustees in a disgraceful mess with one of the women of his flock. The dirty affair got into the papers and the preacher was invited to quit. The Fourth church wants to consolidate with the Fourth Avenue, but the latter won't have it that way, unless the beer-drinking Dr. Parkhurst will throw up his job as pastor of the former. The New York and East Harlem pulpits are vacant. The Harlem preacher wants to quit to go to Baltimore. He refuses to take the East Harlem church unless they will give him \$3,000 a year to spend, and the presbytery won't do it. Calvary and the Thirteenth churches are trying to sell out, but can't. Rev. C. W. Shields, who was chased out of the church by hot-headed ones for signing a saloon license, has just become an Episcopal deacon. Preacher Warzawaik, in charge of the Jewish work, was accused of gambling and that got the whole Presbytery in a row. Dr. Chambers thinks he is not getting enough boodle for his work and threatens to strike. One small Sunday school in South Brooklyn represents the total extension of the New York Presbyterian church in two years. Last fall a Sunday school was started in Harlem, but three churches got to wrangling about it and it "busted." There is a Sunday school committee and a church extension committee, but all they do is to get away with the collections. To cap

the climax, a lot of the brothers of the liturgical wing have been chasing around to the Catholic church of Our Lady Queen of the Angels to kiss a piece of the shin bone of St. Anthony, which is on exhibition there. In the midst of all this ghost show, Secularism is taking mighty strides in Gotham.

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