

Christianity with the Young.

Little Marjorie is by no means fond of going to church. She has to sit too still, and "the man" talks about things she cannot yet understand.

"What's it for, mamma?" she asked one day. "What do we go to church for?"

Mamma tried to tell her the reasons and concluded by saying:

"And when you can't understand what the minister means you must remember that he is talking about good and beautiful things; and you must make up your mind to think of something good yourself."

That day Marjorie was very quiet in church and her mother praised her for it on the way home.

"I did just as you told me," said the wee maid; "I thought of something good."

"What was it, dearie?"

"Apple pie!"

One of the homeliest men in the East End has a very pretty four-year-old daughter. One day she was sitting on his lap opposite a large mirror. She looked at her father's reflection a moment, then at her own, and, turning to him, she asked:

"Papa, did God make me?"

"Yes, dear," was the reply.

"And did he make you, too?"

"Yes."

"Well," she said, again glancing at the mirror, "he's turning out much better work lately, isn't he?"

Little Dot was very fond of Bible stories, and one day, after her mother had read the story of Lot's wife, she asked:

"Mamma, what did Mr. Lot do when his wife was turned into a pillar of salt?"

"What do you think he did?" asked mamma.

"Why," replied the practical little miss, "I s'pose he went out and hunted up a fresh one."

Religion and Insanity.

Mr. Kendlings of the Ohio Insane Asylum says that the chief causes of insanity are domestic infelicity and religion, and in conversation with a minister lately said:

"We find it inadvisable to hold many religious services here, as oftentimes the patients get excited, and that is one of the worst things that can happen to them. There are patients here who get down on their knees and pray for hours at a time."

Dr. H. A. Tobey of the Toledo State Hospital gives the following instances of religious insanity:

"There are phases of so-called religious teaching that tend to send weak minded people off their mental balance. For instance, when they are taught that they are hanging over the abyss of an eternal hell.

"The doctrines of justice and love and mercy never unhinged any reason. Some of the churches known as evangelic, which deal in excitable revival meetings, send us a great many patients. That doctrine they call sanctification has unhinged many intellects. When I was in Darton we had three patients in one week from that cause. One of them was a most worthy but emotional lady, who was attracted to these sanctification meetings, and the teachers of the doctrine began to come to her house. Her husband saw that her mind was being affected and forbade them the house.

"They came one day in his absence, had a big meeting, and the next day the woman was brought to the asylum. Ten days afterward she died from acute mania. Of the other two brought that week from the same cause, one entirely recovered, one partially. While I had four of these patients violently insane, four clergymen came to visit the institution. I was feeling strongly on the subject, and departed so far from my rules as to show them the victims and explain the cause of their condition. One of them said to me afterward: 'You were doing God's work that morning. The three men with me had been preaching that doctrine.'

"Last year we admitted eighteen patients, whose condition arose from so-called 'religious causes.' We average, I think, from eighteen to twenty every year. A fair percentage of the cases is incurable. By surrounding them with favorable conditions, building them up physically and reasoning with them on the folly of their delusions, we gradually work them out. Sometimes they believe they are eternally lost."

How to Attract People to the Churches.

The vacation period will soon be at an end and the people returning to their homes will resume the routine of living. They will bring with them the question of, How can the churches be filled? Not that the question has ever been absent from the minds of the men who preach Sunday after Sunday to an array of empty benches, but their absence from church can not be explained by absence from the city.

Various methods to attract people to the churches have failed. Sensationalism has been found to fill the church but temporarily. The success of philosophy and science has been proved ephemeral, politics found to be deleterious, old fashioned orthodoxy inefficacious. All this being true, the conclusion is but natural that the people are growing irreverent, but like many other natural conclusions, it is a wrong one. People are thinking reverently, but they are not thinking so much of belief as they are of conduct and the preacher, who prates only of the one to the exclusion of the other is not delivering sermons that attract the people.—[Cincinnati Times Star.

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