

MINISTERS AND THEATER

PORTLAND MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION TAKEN TO TASK.

Average Clergyman, Says This Correspondent Might Spend an Evening at a Play With Profit.

PORTLAND, March 15.—(To the Editor.)—If the ministers of our city churches do not startle the public by new and pungent truths; if they fail to the plane of the mediocre and fall to satisfy the real needs of the multitudes who are hungering and thirsting for mental and spiritual food, they certainly do one thing—they utterly bewilder the public by the unique and expeditious way they have of settling the most momentous questions when they meet in their monthly convocations. If that great question of creed revision, which is agitating the great Presbyterian church, on which a select number of 21 ministers and elders have been at work for weeks, could have been given into the hands of the Portland Ministerial Association, the work would have been completed long ago, not to be disturbed for the next 300 years. As examples of the thorough business methods and quick dispatch of all matters presented to this body of men, now known as the sacred doctors of theology and conservators of the relics of antiquity, I can but refer you briefly to two sessions of recent date. The first occurred about three months ago, when the question of orthodox versus heterodoxy, or more correctly, evangelical versus un-evangelical, was presented to the brethren for final adjudication. After thorough investigation of the records of councils from remote antiquity to the present, in which all the errors which have crept into the church were minutely discussed, as to their origin, influence and present status, and after carefully weighing the original passages which had been set forth to substantiate the errors of doctrine, especially those which tended to clothe the divine being with attributes of love, compassion and long suffering, it was decided after this labor had been accomplished to give for the enlightenment of all men everywhere a true statement of the meaning of the term "evangelical."

Evangelicalism means all that the Presbyterian church teaches—the divine decree, election, reprobation, elect infants, including the awful hell of Calvinist Knox and Jonathan Edwards. It takes in all the Baptist doctrine of dipping, close communion, land-markers, etc., including the hard shells, also takes in the Methodist doctrine of free grace and universal salvation, baby sprinkling, the mourners' bench and the second blessing. It embraces the teaching of the Christian church, including the sacrament as taught by Alexander Campbell and the later accretions of his successors, including its three pillars of fourfold strength, viz., repentance, dipping, and faith. It includes the broad and liberal teaching of the great Congregational church—that church of mighty giants and men of renown—it takes in all their differences of creed, from the most rigid trinitarian to the most outspoken unitarian. Evangelicalism, as defined by the Portland Ministerial Association, embraces also the Protestant Episcopal church, with its profound liturgy and symbolic ritualism, its venerable prayer-book and historic episcopate, together with its 38 articles.

But, alas! the poor little Swedenborgian church is unevangelical, because it is founded on the supposed visions of one who proclaimed himself a seer, who saw in the next world a chance for a poor sinner's escape from a yawning hell. The Roman Catholic church is unevangelical, because she teaches the dogma of purgatory, a chance to atone by suffering for sins committed here, and finally to arrive at heaven's open door.

But the poor Universalist believes in a larger hope and a heaven of bliss for all after proper atonement—they are the arch heretics. "Christ, infinitely divine, made himself man, to save man from sin." Everything else included. "In these varied theories—all the oddities and bigoted peculiarities—may be believed; it may be believed that there were more Adams than the one of Genesis—yes, any speculation as to man's original entrance into the world, away back through a long line of animal ancestors—back, back, to the jelly-fish, the protoplasm, the protoplasma, to the evangelist there must be but one dogma as to man's exit. If any preacher leaves out hell, with its eternal torments, or attempts to find an exit even at the other end, away deep down, leading out by far off Neptune or the most distant planet, he is a heretic, unfit to associate with ministers who preach the pure gospel—the true evangelism—good tidings of great joy to all men. These evangelical brethren must have a hell, red hot, walked around and door hermetically sealed up, with angels of light unceasingly throwing in brimstone, lest the fire should be extinguished by the oozing blood of the larger millions of the earth's inhabitants. At the close of this eventful session, by request of the president, brethren lustily sang, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love; the fellowship of kindred minds, is like to that above." The benediction was pronounced and the meeting adjourned.

The second session was that of last Monday, to which I can but briefly refer. What consternation must have marred the grave faces of these sacred doctors when that bewildered Sunnyside minister announced that he had been the recipient of two passes to witness the performance of "The Sign of the Cross" at the Marquand Grand Theatre. The manager, Mr. Hellig, should have known better. Had it been a light comedy or a farce he would not have been in so much danger of being misunderstood, for here the average minister is an adept. I will venture the assertion that no other class of men, professional or otherwise, can spin a yarn so long, or tell the same old story over and over again, or picture the scenes of long, long ago and the awful events of the long time to come as can the preacher. But a clean play, with a high moral tone, calculated to portray the deepest emotions

of the human heart, to bring us in touch, in one brief night, with the varied phases of human life, showing us virtue rewarded and cunning and crime thwarted; that such a play, represented by artists of the highest order and of international renown, should cause such consternation and the kindness of the manager constructed to be but a clever stroke of policy to catch the unsophisticated and trustful preacher, is an enigma I cannot solve. I pity the poor brother who found himself in such a dilemma. What could he do? What could any man do, lost in a maze of bewilderment? He had to cry out in agonizing tones: "Burn it, burn it! what must I do?" "Burn it, burn it!" shouted a little man from away down South. "We burn things down South that we do not want." "Yes; burn them, burn them!" echoed a number of voices. "Yes, everything must be burned that is not evangelical."

At this juncture one brother, who calls to our mind the wise Gamaliel of the Jewish Sanhedrin, said: "Let us have a little caution, brethren. I am from Jerusalem—I mean Indianapolis. I used to preach there, and they did the same thing out there, just for advertising purposes; they could not get crowded houses unless they did it. They sent passes to one of my deacons, and he didn't return them, and he didn't go."

These brethren censure a man for a generous act. They condemn the play—every play, no matter as to its character—and do this with the confession that they never go themselves, but seem to know all the plays and the players from some other source, and what that is they are not careful to state. Of course, in the matter of theater-going a minister has a right to his own convictions, to go or stay away; but he oversteps his authority when he dictates to his brother ministers, or anybody else, what they must do. It is well known that a large number of the members of the different churches attend theaters; they consult their tastes and select the plays they deem profitable, and are usually well rewarded.

Apart from the moral of the play and the grave lessons to be learned, the average minister may profitably spend an evening now and then, if only to study the true art of public speaking. It would certainly help him to become more natural and to throw off his sepulchral tones and antique gravelled voice. His gestures might become more graceful, and he might be led to see the folly of pounding the Holy Word with clenched fist as a mark of emphasis, and would find that intense earnestness with a few judicious realizations of his momentous work would voluntarily move the muscles in their proper groove. It is said that ministers are busy men and cannot spare the time to frequent the theater. Perhaps they are, perhaps they cannot, but they get furious once in a while.

I will close by relating an incident which occurred but a short time ago. A few friends were gathered one evening in social intercourse. Among the number was a young minister who had but lately arrived in the town. The question of the theater came up for discussion, and he was asked if he attended such places. His answer was: "I did not until about a year ago. Up to that time I preached incessantly against every play in every theater, discriminating in favor of none. About this time I had occasion to pass through a large Eastern city on my way to a village a few miles beyond, and finding that I was booked to stay overnight in the city, I took a leisurely stroll in the evening, when—lo and behold!—the tempter came and suggested that as I was a stranger I might enjoy a little innocent pleasure. The theater was suggested, when in clear tones an inward voice quoted the line of that grave old hymn, 'Frown to wander, Lord, I feel it,' but the desire to go was greater than the other desire, and I decided that for once I would wander. I bought a ticket—no free pass this time—and went in, and what do you think? The first thing I saw was 'The Sign of the Cross.' That play has been a wonderful help to me from that day to this. I love the cross of Christ better, and I have reached a truer Christianity than that memorable night." HOMER.

LIFE OF TURKISH WOMEN.

Various Types of Beauty and Character in the Harem.

New York Tribune.

"The fact that Turkish women must dress alike in the streets gives rise to the impression of a sameness of character that does not in the least exist among them," says Mary Mullis Patrick, president of the American College for Girls in Constantinople. "A superficial observer who meets these veiled figures in public places, shrouded in a mysterious costume that suggests great possibilities of beauty behind it, may wonder indefinitely what kind of a life these figures really lead, without any clue to the solution of the problem. Yet life in Turkish society is as real and varied as in America, and often far more dramatic."

"There are decided types among Turkish women. There is the butterfly who lives for pleasure; the domestic woman, and even the strong-minded woman, and, in addition to these, a class exists not found in America, the women who belong to court society."

"The butterfly is often a Christian woman, and was perhaps brought to Constantinople to be sold to the highest bidder, and throughout all her childhood was taught to look forward to a possible life at the capital, to be made gay and bright, with plenty of money and flirtation and social success. She has, perhaps, the bright blue eyes and golden hair that are so rare among the Turks to give her the place of eminence that she desires. Because of her beauty her husband shows her with presents and fills her life with pleasures. Her eyelashes and eyebrows are painted, but not very noticeably, and diamonds and other beautiful stones flash from her hands, her wrists, her neck and her hair. The dress which she wears under her street robe is from Paris, and her shoes are low, even in winter, with pointed toes and very high heels."

Not Much Housekeeping.

"The domestic Turkish woman presents

Wash Silks The largest line of pretty Wash Silks in town. Every yard new this season. Very best patterns and colorings. Samples sent to out-of-town patrons.

Meier & Frank Co.

Just Received Latest in Fine Muslin Underwear

equaled in elegance by any store in the country. Would like to show them to you. (2d Floor.) New Infants' Wear in large variety.

Great Purchase of Lace Curtains



A feast of superior value in high-grade Lace Curtains—a great purchase by the curtain buyer of 305 pairs of Irish Point Curtains at a price about one-half regular value. There's going to be much enthusiasm over these curtain values, so we advise coming bright and early tomorrow morning.

Lot 1—178 pairs of Irish Point Curtains—full size—hand-some variety of patterns—plain centers—neat borders—values range from \$5.50 to \$6.50 a pair—your choice.....

\$3.98

\$8.50 Curtains, \$4.87

Lot 2—130 pairs of full size Irish Point Curtains in novelty effects—plain centers—neat borders—regular \$8.50 values—your choice, while they last, the pair.....

\$4.87

Easter Hats



Hosts of them—perfect dreams in fashion witchery—when you buy here you buy that which is correct and safe—this spring collection is far superior to any showing in town, and you'll be struck with the remarkable lowness of prices—see the

"Dolly Varden"

a new and very stylish creation that is meeting with popular favor in the large Eastern cities—the shape is very becoming to nine out of every ten women.

Handsome Hats for the Children

Silk Petticoats



A spring display of Silk Petticoats that we are really very proud of. Fashion dictates the silk underskirt more than ever before, and where's the woman who doesn't love its sheen and swish? The new spring styles are very striking, and will immediately find favor with correct dressers. Prices range from

\$6.50 to \$40.00

New Alpaca and Moreen Petticoats in the leading styles.

Silk

Waists

A superior showing of exclusive styles in Silk Waists—made and trimmed in the height of fashion and of the very best quality of silks—

\$4.50 to \$30.00

McGee Petticoats Sole Portland agents for the celebrated McGee Adjustable Yoke Petticoats. Entirely new and a large variety. Ask to see them. (2d Floor.)

Meier & Frank Co.

Magnificent new styles in high-class Lingerie from the best French and American makers. Included are Chemise, Corset Covers, Gowns and Skirts. Styles unequalled like to show them

Cozy Corners Built to your order. Estimates and drawings cheerfully submitted. Write for a copy of our handsome illustrated booklet "Nooks and Corners."

Meier & Frank Co.

How About Your Easter Footwear?

Slippers for women.

The Easter shoe needs for the family should be supplied at once. We've the right kind for man, woman or child, and they possess the three cardinal qualities of comfort, style and durability. All the latest styles in dress

Ladies' Spring Suits

The Regular \$15.00 Styles \$10.85



The first bargain gun of the spring season in Ladies' Suits—A Sensational price with an object to stimulate the selling and get you better acquainted with our qualities, styles and low prices—Our Cloak department contains the most complete gathering we ever had for spring—The handsomest Portland has ever had in any year—The utmost of style and smartness in silk jackets, long silk coats, suits, costumes, jackets, etc.

100 Ladies' Suits in Eton and Blouse styles, Coverts and Homespuns in Black, Blue, Oxford Gray and Castor—The Etons have pretty vestee effects in white—Jackets silk lined—All sizes—These suits were selling quickly at \$15.00 and many of them are splendid \$18.00 values. Your choice.....

\$10.85

Shirtwaist Suits—new

Second floor.

Tomorrow the first showing of the new 1902 Shirtwaist Suits—The celebrated "Royal" styles for which we are Portland agents—Handsome creations in Pique, Chambray, Linen, Muslin, Dimity, etc. Made up in charming styles—

New Silks Choosing Carpets

Here's a silk store unequalled in the whole country West of the Mississippi—Everything that the market has produced will be found here in almost endless variety.

Pongees In plain or figured, very large variety, 50c to \$1.85 yard.

Waist Silks Fancy waist silks, every new style and coloring and at every price.

Foulards The celebrated Cheney Bros. Foulards in new colorings and patterns.

Taffetas in all qualities and every shade on the color card.

New Black and White effects in waist silks at popular prices.

Wash Silks—very large line. New patterns.



You will find stimulus and suggestion in a visit to our carpet store. Its rather more difficult to choose now than a week ago. So many new beautiful carpets have come in meanwhile. For the parlor: Soft colors and fine two-toned effects in a superb variety of new designs. For the library, dining room or smoking room: Subdued patterns and rich Oriental colorings, and hundreds of designs for other rooms, with expert help in picking out the one you want. Choose your carpet carefully and without undue haste. We're ready to estimate on any work you want done.

Window Shades Custom Shade work done to your order in a satisfactory manner. Best materials and workmanship, and very lowest prices guaranteed.

Wash Fabrics



Such a Wash Fabric season as this is going to be! Wash Fabrics of beautiful design and quality. All the styles in our vast collection are the product of the best American, Scotch and French mills. Many of the styles are our own importation and cannot be seen elsewhere. Beautiful weaves full of individuality are characteristic this year. The time to do your choosing is now, then when the hot days arrive you will be all prepared to enjoy them in the proper comfort. Samples cheerfully sent to our out-of-town friends.

Free Lessons in Art Embroidery

Free lessons in Art Embroidery given at your home. We are now organizing classes of six members to receive instructions in the new Japanese system from an expert. Learn how to do the best fancy work and make chateleine bags. For further particulars inquire at the Art Department. (2d Floor.)

Meier & Frank Company

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Fashions Fancies

Our store brim full of them, which it's your privilege to view.

Our suits have that superiority of style, fit, quality and workmanship that easily distinguishes them from the ordinary kind. Our popular prices make our store popular.

**New Costumes—New Suits
New Waists—New Jackets
Everything Up-to-Date**

HIGHEST PRICES PAID FOR RAW FURS

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LARGEST AND LEADING FURRIERS OF THE WEST.
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a great contrast to the brilliant creature that we have just described. She is rather large and stolid-looking, careless as to her dress and of a simple and amiable character. She has a very easy life compared with that of her American sisters. There is not much housekeeping in a Turkish house, and what there is done by slaves and servants, who consider themselves permanent members of the family and realize what is expected of them. Rooms furnished with rugs and divans are comparatively easy to keep in order. There is a chief in the kitchen, who sends his best efforts to the dining-room in the men's apartments, a place seldom visited by the women of the household. Their own simple food is served to them at irregular intervals, when they feel hungry. There is, perhaps, a French governess to teach the children, who does not like the irregular life of the harem, and an exception is made in her favor, and she dines at the master's table, where the food is served more to her taste. Her apartments are, however, in the side of the house belonging to the women, which is entirely separate from the other half of the establishment.

"The domestic Turkish woman does not look after the house particularly, nor have much care of the children. When things go wrong she is not held responsible, but the lord of the household calls up the servant or slave in charge of that and write, although that degree of ignorance is now quite rare in large

cities. She spends her time in smoking, drinking coffee and overlooking the nurses who have the care of the children.

Educated Mohammedan Women.

"Let us now turn to that product of modern progress—the educated Mohammedan woman. She may be found here and there, perhaps in the harems of Princes, or of pashas, or even sometimes in the middle classes of society, although she is not commonly found anywhere as yet. She reads English, French and German readily, with a good pronunciation, having the aptitude for languages usually found with Turkish women. She knows that there are four states in America where women vote, and often wonders when there will be any voting in Turkey, either for men or women. She reads the daily papers and has decided opinions in regard to all political affairs. The advanced Mohammedan woman has a private room, instead of living in the rooms with the other women, and in this room are found some unusual articles for a Turkish house, namely, a writing desk, some bookshelves, upon which stand many of the new books of the day, and on the wall hang some really fine engravings."

"One Mohammedan woman has even published several books herself, and is at present writing a series of articles for one of the daily papers, which are of so progressive a nature that the censor of the press has obliged her to cut out about half of what she has written. She longs to travel, but that is not yet allowed to a Turkish woman, least beyond the bounds of her own land. She has been to Egypt and Syria, but that does not sat-

isfy her, and she even dreams of going to Paris and Berlin to work in the libraries there. She scorns the frivolities of ordinary society, and contemplates forming a club, where kindred spirits may discuss congenial subjects, but that has not yet been possible. Her influence in the press is already felt, and one may foresee that she will form one of the elements in the forces that are rapidly changing the conditions of Turkish life.

"Harem life at court is much more complicated than elsewhere, for everything there depends on the will of his imperial majesty, the sovereign of the land."

Twelve Rules for Reviewers.

The following are Brander Matthews' 12 rules for reviewers, as set forth in his last book, "Pen and Ink."

1. Form an honest opinion.
2. Express it honestly.
3. Don't review a book which you cannot take seriously.
4. Don't review a book with which you are out of sympathy. That is to say, put yourself in the author's place, and try to see his work from his point of view, which is sure to be a kind of rapture.
5. Stick to the text. Review the book before you, and not the book some other author might have written: object dicta are valueless from the critic as from the judge. Don't go off on a tangent. And also don't go around in a circle. Say what you have to say and stop. Don't go on writing about the subject, and merely weaving garlands of flowers of rhetoric. Whenever, before the outbreak of the recent trouble in the far East, Her Majesty

the specimen bricks you select for quotation do not give a false impression of the facade, and not only of the elevation merely, but of the perspective also, and of the ground plan.

7. In reviewing a biography or a history, criticize the book before you, and don't write a parallel essay for which the volume you have in hand serves only as a peg.
8. In reviewing a work of fiction don't give away the plot. In the eyes of the novelist this is an unpardonable sin. And as it discounts the pleasure of the reader also, it is almost equally unkind to him.
9. Don't try to prove every successful author a plagiarist. It may be that many a successful author has been a plagiarist, but no author ever succeeded because of his plagiarism.
10. Don't break a butterfly on a wheel. If a book is not worth much, it is not worth reviewing.
11. Don't review a book as an east wind would review an apple tree—so it was once said Douglas Jerrold was wont to do. Of what profit to any one is mere bitterness and vexation of spirit?
12. Remember that the critic's duty is to the reader mainly, and that it is to guide him not only to what is good, but to what is best. Three parts of what is contemporary must be temporary only.

A Wonderful Chinese Tent.

London Express.

The Empress Dowager of China does not travel like other less illustrious folk. Whenever, before the outbreak of the recent trouble in the far East, Her Majesty

traveled to any distance from her capital she used to take with her a wonderful tent, and this tent has now been taken to France by Lieutenant-Colonel Laurant-Cherlonchou, who received it from the Mandarin of Ki-Tcheou, and has been presented to the army museum in Paris by the French Minister of the Navy. The tent is lined with yellow silk, and is copiously embroidered in silver and gold, with thousands of curious but artistic designs, most prominent among them being blazing suns and monstrous dragons with five claws.

It is 30 feet long, 21 feet wide and 24 feet high, and when erected it has the form of a cube, over which a pyramid extends itself. This Her Majesty could not well complain of the smallness of her portable abode during sultry weather, and as for the furnishings, they were truly Oriental in their luxuriousness. From time immemorial it has been the custom of the people of high degree in far Cathay to use these gorgeously emblazoned tents, the nature of the country being such that it is often impossible to call a halt for the night near a town or village.

A FREE FIGHT.

Nothing draws a crowd so quickly as a street fight, unless it should be free La Sincridad elgaras.

A machine has been installed in the Pension Office in Washington, D.C., which will "tick" and seal 25,000 official envelopes a day. Previously the work was done by hand.