

wavering faith in God and his promises, yet his faith was begotten and perfected in the trials through which he passed. A faith that has come up through skepticism is not soon to be overturned.

HOW IT WORKS.—The following has been going the round of our exchanges:

A pastor dreamed one night that his church had hitched him up to a carriage, and as he pulled along over sandy roads, he wondered how the wheels moved so smoothly and cost him so little effort, until, looking around, he found his *brethren and sisters pushing*. After awhile, the wheels grew heavy and the pastor, sweating, panting, looked back to see what was the matter, only to find that the *deacons* had jumped in and were leisurely leaning back and cracking the whip.

LONDON SOCIETY IN 1883.—During the past week one of the leading representatives of Continental nations gave a ball at the West End. Invitations to about 250 of the "upper ten" were issued. The evening arrived, and amidst the splendour of sumptuous furnishing the elaborate supper was served. An enormous quantity of wine was provided and consumed, not a single full bottle remaining after 2 A. M. A number of elegantly attired "gentlemen" went home quite drunk. We wonder whether we are returning to the disgraceful days of George IV. It is simply humiliating to think of educated men spending the night in drinking themselves into a condition of sensual intoxication, from which the beasts that perish would instinctively shrink.—*Christian Commonwealth*.

THE STRIKE.—The telegraphers' strike on this coast and perhaps throughout the United States which began last week and still continues at this writing, is causing considerable inconvenience on the part of business men. It seems that the strike has been brewing for several years. Their demands, as stated in one of our dailies, are as follows:

The demands made by the brotherhood on the company were that both sexes receive the same compensation, and also that salaries be increased fifteen per cent., and that eight hours in the daytime, or seven hours at night be a day's work, and further, that twenty-six working days be taken as a working month, and that they receive extra compensation for work done on Sunday. That the lowest salary paid to line men be sixty-five dol-

lars, and double wages be paid when they are required to work on Sunday.

INFLUENCE OF SKEPTICISM.—The *Brooklyn Union*, in its supplement of June 30th, gave a very interesting report of the opinions of four leading Presbyterian clergymen in our sister city, in relation to the influence of scientific infidelity and worldliness upon the religious life of the Church and the community at large. Nearly all the gentlemen interviewed thought the power of scepticism had been much over-rated, that it had not shaken the confidence of Christians or the general belief in the truths of revelation. All attributed greater

power to an increasing worldliness. But was not much of apparent indifference, which was so obdurate for a few years, due to the seemingly compact and complete argument by which a materialistic and atheistical science was sustained? The argument for a time seemed flawless. It covered the whole ground. It professed to give an unbroken genealogy from an original fire-mist to the most complicated and exalted forms of life. It found no overruling God anywhere. It excluded the supernatural utterly. Now did not this bold and confident statement produce a waiting attitude in many minds? While men were not convinced by it, while they did not surrender their faith in God, in spiritual life, in miracles, were they not brought to a standstill, to a position of expectancy, and to an indisposition to commit themselves either way until they could form a reasonable estimate of the outcome of the debate? Necessarily the advocates of revelation for a season could only fasten upon a weak point here and there, and were compelled to wait for the full expression of the theory of materialism before they could make an answer that would produce conviction. A very decided change has occurred during the past two or three years. The materialists have been put upon the defensive; their argument has been very seriously damaged; enormous gaps have been disclosed in what was claimed to be a continuous line of descent, and thousands of intelligent men and women have come to the conclusion that modern scientific scepticism has failed to form a system of the universe in which God has no place and wherein there is no room for the supernatural. With this conclusion the apparent indecision and

indifference have passed away, and during the last winter thousands who had been halting between two opinions, declared themselves on the Lord's side. It has seemed to us that infidelity was causing not a few persons to assume a waiting attitude. Such reports as those of the *Union* are very valuable.—*Christian Intelligencer*.

PHYSICAL EVILS OF TOBACCO.—Tobacco contains an essential oil, and nicotine, both of which are highly poisonous.

Tobacco, when first smoked, chewed or snuffed, deranges the whole system.

Tobacco by perverting the nourishment saliva, prevents the due elaboration of chyle and blood.

Tobacco exerts a special influence on the brain and nervous system generally.

Tobacco, by weakening the nerves, produces morbid excitability and irritability.

Tobacco impairs the senses of smelling and tasting, and often of hearing and seeing.

Tobacco seriously affects the action of the heart and circulation of the blood.

Tobacco mars beauty, destroys the complexion, and impairs the brilliancy of the eyes.

Tobacco smoke in confined rooms is very injurious to sickly women and children.

Tobacco consumers are more liable to disease than if they were in a natural condition.

Tobacco weakens the constitution, and renders recovery from sickness a greater difficulty.

Tobacco is a known cause of enfeeblement to the prosperity of its consumers.

A boy with a cigar or a quid of tobacco in his mouth will not be very particular about his companions. In fact, he will hardly be tolerated in good company. He will naturally be drawn to the place where the idle and dissipated resort.

Such is the history, not of all tobacco users, but of thousands.—*Dr. R. H. McDonald*.

HARD QUESTIONS.—The Church of to-day is externally prosperous, perhaps never more so since her pentecostal birth; her edifices dot the land; she abounds in members who, if not millionaires, are sufficiently rich to procure all the needs of life and many of its luxuries; her numerical strength is so rela-

tively great that her membership touches and influences the life of the nation among all classes of society; her aggressive zeal, sustained by a benevolence never exceeded, is marvelously persistent and grandly successful in spreading the truths of Holy Writ? But is this external prosperity associated with any appreciable increase in her spirituality and in the ethical strictness of her practical life? Is she really growing in those spiritual experiences which are the fountain of her true strength, and in those moral qualities which are her beautiful garments? Or is her benevolent zeal nothing better than a cloak with which she keeps up an appearance of healthy life and conceals the worldliness which is slowly eating away her faith and love? Is she an exception to her past history by being proof against the insidious influences of prosperity, or is she about to repeat that feature in her former career typified in still more ancient times by Jeshurun, by kicking against the commands of her Lord in consequence of having, like Jeshurun, "waxed fat?"—*N. Y. Christian Advocate*.

CLINGING TO LIFE.—Life is hard at the best, and it is often filled with pain and sorrow till it becomes, as we call it, a burden. Many a one says he would like to be free from it. Heaven is seen afar off as a home and rest to which he will go, and in all seriousness and honesty, with not a shadow of the dramatic in his utterance, he will tell how he longs to get there. In a few cases the succeeding experience corresponds with such a profession. He desires to depart and be with Christ, and the death hour is welcomed—amid thanksgivings and songs of triumph he goes to be forever with the Lord. But usually it is the other way. The love of life is strong—stronger than he thought, and when the danger of losing it comes near, he shrinks away from the messenger that invites or summons him to the other shore. He knows of heaven—it is a holy, happy place. He is sure of Christ—to be with him is the consummation of all joy. The immortality, incorruption, crowns of rejoicing, all are certain and infinitely blessed, but nature asserts herself in saying that life is sweet, and asking for delay in entering upon the eternal weight of glory. Even with all his pains and miseries on