The Church Is Too Indifferent to the Masses.

By Bishop HENRY C. POTTER of New York.

THERE is no more RIGHTEOUS ARRAIGNMENT OF THE CHURCH of our time than its indifference to the social conditions of the classes made up of less favored men and women down in the gutter. The church has justly been severely criticised for its lack of interest in the mental, moral and physical upbuilding of the masses. The task of the church is to translate the mind of Christ, first by sympathy, then by painstaking curiosity. This curiosity should lead you to know something of that stratum of life below that in which you are wont to move. SUCH SYMPATHETIC CURIOSITY WILL SOONER OR LATER LEAD TO THE ONLY HOPE OF THE SOCIAL UNREST OF OUR TIME, AND THAT IS PERSONAL SERVICE.

In our ecclesiastical relations we have been INTIMIDATED from translating our relations to the world into human sympathy for fear of dropping into what has been called the institutional church, but if an institutional church be the means of bringing the church into profound sympathy with HUMAN LIFE, then the founder of our religion instituted the institutional church.

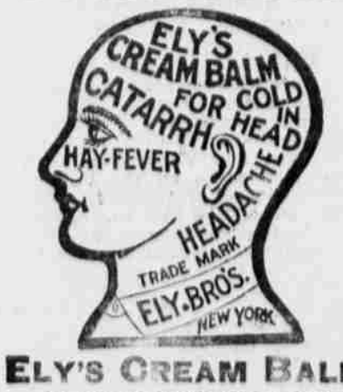
THE CHURCH SHOULD TAKE ACTIVE STEPS TO CURE THE PHYSICAL AND MENTAL AS WELL AS THE RELIGIOUS ILLS OF THE PEOPLE. THE CHURCH'S NEGLECT OF THIS VITAL WORK CANNOT BE REMEDIED TOO SOON. IT HAS NEGLECTED ITS MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTION.

The great cause of our social unrest is that MONSTROUS PROFUSION AND EXTRAVAGANCE which I am inclined to consider the worst note in our American civilization. Ostentatious wealth cannot be too scathingly condemned.

I become more and more convinced that the impatience of the masses comes more from the ABUSE of wealth than from any other cause. Is it any wonder that the average worker in the tenements becomes wrought up at what he considers the great injustice of society when he sees wealth spent lavishly around him, while he struggles in misery?

THE MODERN WORKMAN IS MOST INFLAMMABLE MATERIAL FOR SOCIAL UNREST. THE WONDER IS NOT THAT WE HAVE PRODUCED SUCH RESULTS, BUT THAT RESULTS ARE NOT WORSE.

CATARRH



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The Farmer's Wife

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