

What is the cause and what the remedy?

"While men slept his enemy came and sowed tares."

"He said unto them, an enemy hath done this."—Matt. 13:25, 28.

WHY?

Attention having been called to the dismal results shown in the statistical returns given in the last Synod Journal, the question has not unnaturally been asked — "What is the cause,—and what the remedy?" How is it that while the city is increasing with such wonderful rapidity in numbers and wealth, the seven churches which have been previously dealt with stand out as the seven churches of Asia—from which the candlesticks were at last removed—giving neither life to their members, nor light beyond their little circle.

Even if these were the only parishes in which our church is, amidst surrounding life and vigor, virtually dead, it would be worthy of the most earnest consideration of every layman truly interested in her welfare—but, unfortunately, they do not stand alone.

CONVERSION AND FAMILY WORSHIP

And first let me suggest that while some of the columns giving our church statistics, might without loss be omitted, two should ever be found in the most prominent place as tests of true church membership—the one showing the number of conversions that have taken place during the year in each church; the other, the number of households in which the reading of God's Word and family prayer are daily found.

CONVERSION

The Unconverted Ritualist Awakened

Nicodemus was

"A master of Israel"

"A ruler of the Jews"

"A member of the Sanhedrim"

No doubt his name appeared prominently in the statistics of the Church at Jerusalem as one in full membership, and foremost in all the ordinances, ceremonies and magnificent ritual of the Church. He had all the outward and visible signs. But our Lord