

better than the other, he should, by all odds, preach that in the evening. In course of time the people will understand, and will adjust their church-going habits accordingly. It is a true proverb, "Like priest, like people." If the minister slights the second service, his parishioners will be sure to do likewise. Their estimate of its value will be precisely that which he puts upon it.

Third: Nothing is gained by reproving the people for non-attendance. No doubt they are to blame, but probably they would say the same of their pastor. Longfellow, in "The Spanish Student," says, "It is by the vicar's skirts that the devil climbs into the belfry." At any rate, if the devil is to be chased out, the vicar must do it.

Nor is it worth while to coax the people to come. Press the button of industry and they will do the rest. Make it worth their while to attend the evening service. Stop preaching thin and watery sermons; cease improvising. The best of pulpit orators is not worth listening to when he preaches without preparation. Our people are not to be blamed if, under such conditions, they go away feeling, like Tennyson's farmer:

"An' I hallus com'd to's church afore my Sally wur dead,  
An' 'eered um a-hummin' awaay loike a buzzard; clock ower my 'ead;  
An' I never knawed what a mean'd, but I thowt a 'ad summut to say,  
An' I thowt a said what a owt to 'a said, an I coom'd awaay."

Fourth: The old-fashioned Gospel of the Cross "draws" better than anything else. The Lord was right when He said, "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto Me." It may not be wise always to give the second service a distinctly evangelistic tone, but it is always and everywhere true that the average attendant comes to the sanctuary because he has in his inmost heart a desire to learn the way of salvation, and *he is disappointed when he goes away without hearing about it.* This is one reason why the so-called "liberal" churches are so thinly attended. The people have no permanent use for the Church except as it points the way to the Kingdom of God.

#### IV.—THE IMPRECATORY PSALMS.

FROM "THE EPIC OF PAUL" (UNPUBLISHED).

BY WILLIAM CLEAVER WILKINSON.

[The conversation between Paul and his nephew, young Stephen, continues and comes to a conclusion. Stephen here first speaks.]

"Bear with me that I need to ask such things,  
But tell me yet, O thou who knowest, tell me,  
Am I then right, and is it, as thou seemedst  
To say, but saidst not, veering from the mark,  
When now almost upon it, so I thought,  
Who waited watching—did the Psalmist old