

THE MINIMUM CHRISTIAN.

The minimum Christian! And who is he? The Christian who is going to heaven at the cheapest and easiest rate possible. The Christian who purposes to get all out of the world that he can, and not meet the worldling's doom. The Christian who aims to have as little religion as he can, without being destitute of it altogether. The minimum Christian generally goes to church in the morning unless he is too tired with his week day labors and has lain in bed too late on Sunday morning to get ready for the morning service; in that case he will attend in the afternoon or evening unless it is likely to rain or is too warm or too cold, or he feels too sleepy or has the headache. He listens respectfully to the minister and joins in prayer and praise. He applies the truth often to his neighbors, rarely to himself. If there is a lecture in the week he goes if quite convenient, but rarely attends the prayer meeting, as the latter is apt to be uninteresting. He feels it his duty to be present on communion Sabbath, and his family prayer at least once a day, unless business presses upon him too urgently.

The minimum Christian is friendly to all good work; he wishes them well; but it is not in his power to do much for them. The Sunday School he looks upon as an admirable institution, especially for the young, the neglected, and the ignorant. It is not convenient, however, for him to take a class or attend very regularly, as his business engagements are so pressing during the week that he needs Sunday as a day of rest; nor does he think himself qualified to be a teacher. There are so many persons better qualified for this important duty that he must beg to be excused. He is in favor of the visitation of the poor; but he has no time to take part in these labors of love. He thinks it is a good thing for laymen to take part in the prayer meetings of the church, but he has no gift for public prayers or for making addresses (unless the subject be business or politics), and he must leave it to others. He is friendly to Home and Foreign Missions, and gives his "mite," but thinks there are too many appeals; still he gives or he will lose his reputation.

The minimum Christian is not clear on some points relating to Christian conduct. The circus and dancing, and theatre and card playing, and large fashionable pleas-

ure parties and the skating rink, give him considerable trouble. He cannot see the harm in this or that or the other popular amusement. He says there is nothing in the Bible directly against it. He does not see but a man may be a Christian and go to the theatre or the rink, or to the ball-room. He knows several people who do and members of the church, too. Why should not he? In short, the minimum Christian knows that he cannot serve God and mammon, he would if he could, and will come just as near to doing so as he can; for he thinks it not best to be "righteous overmuch." He will give to himself and the world all that he may, and to God and his cause as little as he can, and yet not loose his soul. He stands so close to the dividing line between the people of God and the people of the world that it is hard to say on which side of it he actually is.

"Ah! my brother, are you making this attempt? Beware, lest you find at last, in trying to get to heaven with as little religion as possible, you have missed it altogether; least, without gaining the whole world, you lost your own soul. Would it not be wiser and better and happier to make sure of heaven by being a maximum rather than a minimum Christian?—*Domestic Journal*.

TO THE FRONT.

The good men must always be at the front. It is not enough that there be more good men than bad, but they must be at the front everywhere and at all times. One man in a position of influence is worth a thousand men single-handed and silent. It is a Christian's duty to wield all the influence he can honestly and judiciously, wherever he is. If a mechanic, be a leader as far as consistency will allow, in the councils of labour; if a "drummer," be a leader among commercial travellers; if a merchant, be as successful as conscience and circumstances permit; in politics, be always on hand, sacrifice time, convenience and comfort to be at the caucus and the polls. It requires more grace, more head and heart to be a leader in social, scholastic, mechanical, mercantile, or political life, constantly and consistently, than it does to be the best deacon, superintendent, or prayer meeting worker in the city, and it is as essential in its way.—*Golden Rule*.