

them literally as well as spiritually "for a shadow in the day-time from the heat; for a place of refuge, and for a cover from the storm and the rain." *Why* are not *our* churches like the temple of the Jews, and like the cathedrals in other lands, left always open? Would it spoil the carpets? Then take them away. Would the pulpit furniture and the hymn books be stolen? Then chain the furniture to the floor and lock up the books. Something ought to be done at once so that churches may be left always open. It would be comfort and balm to many a wounded spirit to hide away even for an hour, in some silent corner of the silent church, to meditate and pray—perhaps to weep. There are multitudes who have, and can have, at home, not a moment of seclusion, who yet long for it, as hungry men do for food. To all these the open church would be as a covert, a refuge, and *they ought to have it*. The poor and crowded together inhabitants of other countries may, *at any time* flee to the sanctuary, to hide grief; to pour out sorrow and penitence away from the notice of man. They may rest there if weary; they may slumber there if faint—and this is well. Catholics are in this thing, *much more truly Christians than are Protestants*. Thus their churches are more a *home* to their people. "God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and truth," we know, but few indeed are the souls that need no outward help to reach Him. Few are the persons who can easily and comfortably commune with him without retirement. One may easily learn by the trial of it, what pleasant and comforting thoughts come to the weary soul in the silent church. Its cool, dim light soothes the feelings; its quiet is delicious as balm. And many, many are the religious souls who would be made stronger, better and happier by being allowed free access all the week to churches. It is all wrong, and *of wrong* to keep them closed. What comfort do the poor, the wronged, the desolate of Catholic countries take in praying in the churches? *Why* should such as these be denied in our midst the same refreshment? One of the first things Christ would say, were he to come and walk through these towns and cities, would be, "Open your churches." Never will the writer forget the healing influence upon *one* torn and overborne spirit, of an hour spent all alone in a church, which, by some unusual cause, was left open. Ever since that day there has been, in *that* mind, a desire for liberty often to repeat the sweet experience, and to see it placed within the reach of all.

May the time come *soon* when those who rule in the matter will think more of what would be for the good of the people, than of how to keep the inside of church buildings in trim and dustless order? Trustees, consult with Christ.

A TOUCHING PICTURE.—In a pamphlet printed by the Rev. Isaac Taylor, Incumbent of St. Matthias, Bethnal-green, with a view of showing the extent of the destitution which prevails in his district he alludes to 'children's trades,' which, he says, 'Among these trades the foremost perhaps is the manufacture of lucifer boxes. For this work the payment is twopence farthing per gross, or 32 boxes for one half-penny' out of which sum the little labourers have to find their own paste. The other day I took upon my knees a little girl who is employed in this manner. She told me she was four years old. Her mother said the child had earned her own living ever since she was three years of age. This infant now makes several hundred boxes every day of her life, and her earnings suffice to pay the rent of the miserable room which the family inhabits.