

Christians. We have no hesitation in saying that we infinitely prefer the latter. Of course, if music alone is our object, the first would be more acceptable, and we would settle comfortably down in our seats to enjoy or grumble, as the case might be. Music has held an important place in the worship of God from time immemorial, witness the song of Moses and Miriam after the deliverance from the Egyptians, and that inexhaustible treasury of spiritual songs—the Psalms—with the technical directions placed before many of them for the guidance of the musicians. But we must be careful to put this divine art in its proper place in the worship of God, not exalting it to a place which it was never intended to occupy, but allowing it to occupy its own proper sphere as the Ministry of Praise. We know that some well-meaning people claim that the end justifies the means, in so far as a good musical programme, well advertised, will draw people within range of gospel preaching, who would not otherwise be reached. This is very plausible, but will not stand a close examination; for the amount of good achieved is not, we think, commensurate with the harm done, or the reproach of the scandal which accrues to Christianity thereby. Let us realize the beauty and appropriateness of music as an auxiliary to our public worship, but let us jealously guard this worship from any extraneous object which would tend to reduce it to the level of mere secular entertainments which can be enjoyed for six days out of the seven in our concert halls. We must take the *via media*, avoiding errors and excesses on either side; from the gorgeous, but spiritually-deadening ceremonial of the Roman or Greek churches on the one hand, to the repelling coldness and bareness of the service which our fathers, in the excess of their zeal, instituted in the early Reformation church, as the form most acceptable to God; and which form, at the present day, may still be found amongst certain bodies of Christians.

ROMAN CATHOLIC EVANGELIZATION IN IRELAND.

The following story of Gospel Mission work in Ireland may be of interest to some of our readers. The facts were communicated to us through the Rev. Principal Waller, D.D., in a letter, of which the following is the substance.

Hallowes—or, to speak explicitly, Richard Carmichael Hallowes—is rector of Arklow. He was a student at Highbury, and was ordained fourteen years ago in Ireland. There are in his parish a thousand Protestants and four thousand Romanists; and, after a time, he felt in duty bound to preach to his Roman Catholic parishioners. He could not get them to church, of course, or get into their houses, so he set to work in