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Religious Idling

Sir John Lubbock found this epitaph in a country churchyard:

"Here lies a poor woman who always was tired,

For she lived in a world where too much was required.

Weep not for me, friends, she said, for I am going

Where there'll neither be working, nor reading, nor sewing;

Then weep not for me, friends if death us do sever,

For I'm going to do nothing forever and ever."

The Freeman (England) says the verse illustrates the notions some people have of the state of the Church notably in heaven but on earth as well. In the latter view it chimes with the story our Methodist friends like to tell to this effect: A man who had been a Methodist offered himself to a Baptist Church. On being asked why he proposed to change his connection, he answered: "In the Methodist Church I am forever being asked to work and give, and give and work; I want to join the Baptist so as to be dipped and done with it." The candidate evidently got his idea of the Baptist way from the old Antinomian offshoot, still it is to be feared that too many in all Christian Churches have set themselves to the tune of "going to do nothing forever and ever."—*Ex.*

Willing To Take Turns

Mrs. Rogers, says *The Fruit-Grower*, had the barrel of russet apples placed in the attic because they were not quite ripe enough to eat, and she warned her three boys, whose ages range from five to eleven years, not to touch them. Then, one rainy day, when she sought the attic to get something from a trunk, she came full upon her sons, surrounded by apples.

At her approach two of the boys drew closer together; but the third, a little contentedly munching an apple, apparently paid no attention to his mother's entrance.

"Jack! Henry! Willie!" she exclaimed reproachfully. "Whatever are you doing? And those apples! Didn't I tell you not to touch them?"

"Yes, mamma," replied Jack, the eldest, "but we're not really eating them; we're acting the Garden of Eden. Willie and I are Adam and Eve. Henry, over there, is the serpent, trying to lead us to our downfall by showing us how good the apples are."

"But," began the mother as sternly as she was able, "you two must have been eating apples; Henry hasn't done it all. I see as many as ten cores around you."

"O yes," returned Willie, the youngest, "we've all been taking turns being the serpent."

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