

EVANGELICAL TRUTH AND APOSTOLIC ORDER.

The Western Churchman.

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WHY DO SO FEW OF OUR MEN ATTEND CHURCH?

This question is one which for a long time has exercised the minds of the clergy and the earnest laity, both in town and country; and, it is a question which not only concerns our fair Dominion, but the "old land" across the sea as well. It is a fact, a painful fact, that in very many of our churches the proportion of women to men is as five to one. A thoughtful observer naturally asks the question—Why is this? Can it be that the men delegate the religious duties of life to their mothers, their wives, and their sisters, and for themselves rest content with contributing to the church's support? Or, do they think that religion is something beneath the dignity of the "lords of creation"—a something that is fit only for the women and children of the household? Are the cares and worries of business so all absorbing that they leave neither time nor inclination for the public worship of God? What is the cause, or rather, we should say, what are the causes, of this apparent indifference to the services of the sanctuary on the part of a large proportion of our men?

It is a large question this, and a serious one.—a question that we can only touch the fringe of: but, it will sooner or later have to be faced, if we would keep Canada from becoming a godless country. For, be it remembered, the men who pay little or no heed to religion are not the illiter-

ate and insignificant only, but the men who have education, and wealth, and influence, and their bad example cannot fail to affect the young folks who are growing up around them. Besides, think of the goodly spiritual heritage that they are allowing to lie unheeded, a heritage which would make them more manly men, better citizens, more faithful husbands and fathers and friends.

Only the other day we asked a man, prominent in business and respected in society, to become a subscriber to the "Western Churchman." He agreed to this, but supplemented his agreement with the remark, "I am not much of a church-goer myself. I have no time to bother with religion, but my wife and the children go to church regularly, so my house is always well represented." This is not an isolated case. Too many of our men simply regard going to church as going to listen to a sermon, and forget that there is a far more important element, that of worship, which no man or woman can do by proxy.

The business methods of the present day have much to answer for. There is an unnatural mental tension pervading business life which is destructive to spiritual life and growth. Men, in too many cases, have come to regard business and worldly aggrandizement as a god, to receive the best that they have to offer, of powers and opportunities. Such men know not what it is to live, in the truest and noblest sense of the word—they only exist. When they come downstairs in the morning, they see little or nothing of their families. Even at the breakfast table they devour

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