

LOSING SUNDAY.

A noted French sceptic once said, "Christianity is dead; it has lost its Sunday."

Christianity is not dead. Is it in danger of losing its Sunday? Two persons from widely different walks in life have lately expressed to me grave fears of the danger, and strangely enough they struck the same note of alarm. One was a lawyer of large practice, who knew whereof he affirmed.

He said:—"I think one of the greatest dangers threatening us as a nation is the growing disregard of the Sabbath day by professing Christians." He spoke particularly of their going about for pleasure and visiting.

The other was a plain old woman who lived on a farm out among the hills. She lamented the great increase of late in Sunday visiting in the neighbourhood where she lived; saying that on almost every Sabbath she saw families driving along the road on their way to a neighbour's to spend the day and to have what she called a "big dinner."

Here is the danger not often alluded to in the pulpit or by the press. We are alarmed at the flagrant violation of the Sabbath day by railroad corporations; by clubs whose members take that day for games and excursions; and by saloon-keepers and others who have no regard for God's law. But it would be well for us to remember that the first day of the week is the Lord's day and is in an especial manner in the keeping of the Lord's people.

If the day sits loosely on those who profess and call themselves Christians it ought not to surprise us if men of the world do not keep it holy.

A good man, who had been accustomed to travel six miles to church regularly every Sunday, said one day to his pastor that it was a long distance for him to go. The pastor replied, "Consider, my friend, that every time you go to church you preach a sermon six miles long."

Would it not be well for professing Christians, who ride out for pleasure on Sunday or make it a day for visiting, to consider that they are preaching sermons all along the road against the sanctity of the Sabbath?

A distinguished jurist in this State once said:—"Sunday, as observed by the Eng-

lish-speaking races, teaches in the street as well as in the church."

Christians should take heed how they teach in the street on the Sabbath day. The heathen are keen observers. A lady missionary in a foreign field says that when she passes along the streets of the city on her way to Sunday-school the people say, "It must be Sunday, here comes Mem."

She was going about her Father's business on his Sabbath day and was preaching the lesson of its proper observance all along the way. If Christians everywhere would refrain from doing their own pleasure on the Sabbath the day would indeed be "a Delight, the Holy of the Lord, Honorable."—*N. Y. Observer.*

CARRYING HELL TO THE HEATHEN.

A German paper illustrates the sort of civilization which Germany is introducing into Africa by pointing to the fact that since taking possession of the Cameroonian country on the west coast, Germany has sent there 1,524,028 litres of rum, 37,800 bottles of gin, 1,588 old muskets, 1,000 cartridges, and 56,039 kilograms of tobacco. As an offset to the pernicious influence of these things the Fatherland has also sent a few missionaries to take the place of the English Baptist missionaries whose presence in the district was not wanted. The colonization of heathen lands by Christian nations ought to be a means of extending the blessings of the Gospel of Christ.

The first result, however, is usually to degrade and not to elevate the poor heathen. Inferior races always learn the vices more readily than the virtues of superior races, and the trader in his keen thirst for gold keeps even pace with the missionary in his love for souls. The traders have the World, the Flesh, and the Devil all on their side, and they very soon outnumber the missionaries a hundred to one.

Germany has unfortunately no monopoly of this bad work. France and Britain are about as bad, and if America shows to any better advantage in the proportion of missionaries to spirits which she sends to heathen lands, it is probably because our national policy does not promote foreign commerce, and our manufacturers of whiskey, tobacco, and arms have not therefore as good facilities for pushing business at a distance as European manufacturers.