

bath by idleness and visiting, neglect the sanctuary, never think of the prayer-meeting, mingle in dubious amusements, and in many ways so "conform to the world" that strangers would never dream of their being followers of Christ. That is no real holiday, which sends us home thus "spotted by the world." But the truest rest will be found in acting out to the full our Christian profession, in taking time for special communion with the Lord in the word and prayer, and in using, fully and freely, those wayside opportunities of winning souls which our Master never suffered to pass unimproved. Christ does not grudge us our rest or our mirth; let us never ask or wish a "holiday" that shall not be a "holy day."

We must say a word for ministerial holidays. We are fully persuaded that they are absolutely necessary to men who are constantly compelled to break the Fourth Commandment, and who rarely, in practice, secure a rest-day during the week. The "wear and tear" of mind and heart in pastoral work, very few laymen at all appreciate. It is very poor economy for any church to keep the same man preaching to them every Sunday all the year round. Dr. John Hall and Henry Ward Beecher have three months' vacations. Most American city pastors have not less than six weeks. Yet many of our Canadian pastors find it difficult to get more than one Sabbath at the Union Meeting, and another during the Missionary Meetings! Every one of them ought to have a clear month, at the very least, and during that time the church should provide supplies for the pulpit. If any of our clerical brethren are too modest to ask for this, we call upon their deacons to propose and insist upon the acceptance of these terms.

The minister's holiday should be spent as the minister himself pleases, and is able to arrange it. To some perfect quietude amongst friends will be the most recuperative; to others, the woods and the waters, with horse or boat, rod and gun; to others, a missionary expedition, amongst vacant churches or new fields,—and we would warmly commend this idea to our missionary committees, that they direct such labours and provide for necessary expenses; and to others, a "working holiday" amongst our American cousins. But in our judgment, it is essential to a ministerial holiday, that it be spent away from home. "The care of all the church" is sure to "come upon" the pastor "daily," so long as he is on the spot.

We can hardly close our remarks on church vacations without a reference to the seasonable topic of Sunday School Pic-nics. We confess to sympathy enough with the avidity of the young folks for these entertainments, to be willing to take our share of the trouble and expense of getting them up. But if the thing is done at all, it ought to be well done, and in nothing is it more necessary to "organize success." A school, that is accustomed to behave itself every Sunday, will not be beyond the control of the same officers on a week-day, and out of doors. And if the teachers have young hearts, and devote themselves to the scholars, providing plenty of amusements, and keeping "meddle and muddle" out of the commissariat, the day will be enjoyed by old and young. Experience shows that much addressing is out of season. In a word, the object of the gathering is not