IS THE WORLD IMPROVING ?

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Protestants

are outdoing the pope in splendid extravagant folly in church building. Thousands on thousands are expended in gay and costly ornaments to gratify pride and wicked ambition, that might and should go to redeem the perishing millions. Does the evil, the folly, the madness, of these proud, formal, fashionable worshippers stop here? These splendid monuments of popish pride, upon which millions are squandered in our cities, virtually exclude the poor for whom Christ died, and for whom He came specially to preach. No wonder God withholds His holy influences! No marvel the heavens are brass, and the earth iron !"

The Advent Watchman says: "One of the religious papers tells a story in relation to church gambling, which contains a lesson worthy of repeating. A member of a church went to his pastor and entreated his personal intercession with his favorite son, who had become ruinously, addicted to the vice of gambling. The pastor consented, and, seeking the young man, found him in his chamber. He commenced his lecture, but before he had concluded, the young man laid his hand upon his arm and drew his attention to a pile of splendid volumes that stood upon the dressing table. 'Well,' said the young man, 'these volumes were won by me at a fair given in your church ; they were my first venture ; but for that lottery, under the patronage of a Christian Church, I should never have become a gambler."

H. L. Hastings, in his preface to "The Reign of Christ on Earth," makes the following powerful remarks : "Where shall we look to find the tokens of the speedy dawning of the hoped-for day of peace? Shall we look at Christendom, where for every missionary sent forth to convert the heathen, a thousand voldiers are trained and supported