

AVERAGE WON'T DO.

A man who prided himself on his morality, and expected to be saved by it, was constantly saying: "I am doing pretty well, on the whole: I sometimes get mad and abuse folks with my tongue, but then, I am strictly honest; I work on Sunday when I am particularly busy, but I give a good deal to the poor, and I never was drunk in my life."

This man once hired a canny Scotchman to build a fence around his lot, and gave him very particular directions as to his work. In the evening, when the Scotchman came in from his labor, the man said:

"Well, Jock, is the fence built; and is it tight and strong?"

"I canna say that it is all tight and strong," replied Jock, "but it's a good average fence, anyhow. If some parts are a little weak, others are extra strong. I don't know but I may have left a gap here and there, a yard wide or so; but then I made up for it by doubling the number of rails on each side of the gap. I dare say that the cattle will find it a very good fence, on the whole, and will like it, though I canna just say it's perfect in every part."

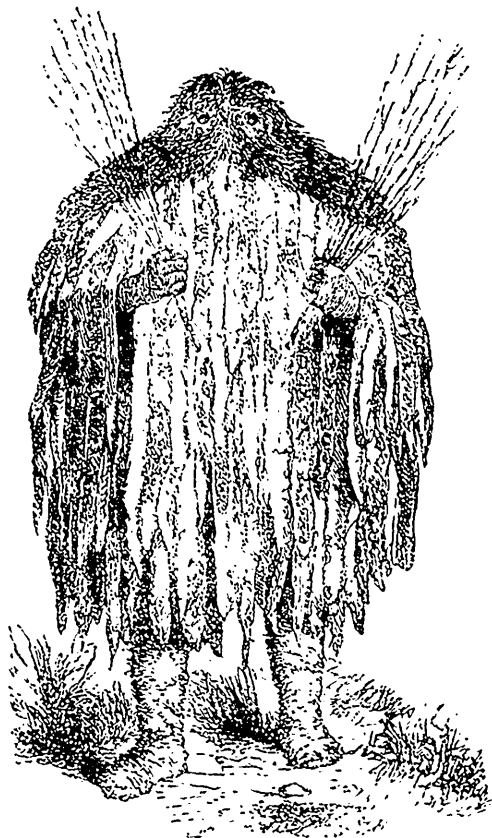
"What!" cried the man, not seeing the point. "do you tell me that you have built a fence around my lot with weak places in it, and gaps in it? Why, you might as well have built no fence at all. If there is one opening, or a place where an opening can be made, the cattle will be sure to find it, and will all go through. Don't you know, man, that a fence must be perfect, or it is worthless?"

"I used to think so," said the dry Scotchman. "but I hear you talk so much about averaging matters with the Lord, it seems to me we might try it with the cattle. If an average fence won't do for them, I am afraid that an average character won't do in the day of judgment."

"When I was on shipboard, and a storm was driving us on the rocks, the captain cried, 'Let go the anchor!' But the mate shouted back, 'There is a broken link in the cable.' Did the captain say, when he heard that: 'No matter: it's only one link. The rest of the chain is good. Ninety-nine of the hundred links are strong. Its average is high. It only lacks one per cent. of being perfect. Surely the anchor ought to respect so excellent a chain, and not break away from it?' No, indeed. He shouted, 'Get another chain!'"

The captain knew that a chain with one broken link was no chain at all. That he might as well throw the anchor overboard

without any cable, as with a defective one. So with the anchor of our souls. If there is the least flaw in the cable, it is not safe to trust it. We would better throw it away, and try to get a new one that we know is perfect.—*Forward.*



An Indian Medicine Man.

A missionary pig is the latest. We hear of it from Australia, where a Christian Endeavor society is fattening a porker as a missionary investment.

There are two saloons in the basement of the Capitol, Washington, just as there were two saloons in the Parliament Building, Ottawa. The C. E. Societies of Washington have commenced a campaign against the two saloons.