

people," when the fact is, that the masses in France are largely under the influence of the Church, and infidelity is found principally among the class that has made France great in all the arts and pursuits of peace.

In the United States the growth of Liberal opinions during the past fifty years has been very rapid, and their influence is generally felt. The orthodox churches are made up largely of members that are ashamed of the written creed of their denomination. The connection of no small number in the churches everybody knows is from motives of policy and prudence. A Christian congregation of this day is not such as the clergy spoke to a few years ago; but, as Rev. George Gilfillan remarks, "An assembly, part of whom have come to sleep, another part to recreate their eyes by staring, a fourth part perhaps to reap benefit, and another fourth to enjoy the refined sensuality of listening to eloquence, or the still dearer luxury of finding fault. Taking audiences and ministers as a class, they are both far happier to part than to meet" (Christianity and our Era).

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## THE SLAVE.

BY WALT. A. RATCLIFFE.

"I HAVE learned," he meekly murmurs,  
 "I have learned to be contented  
 In what state the Lord doth call me ;"  
 In his land, a land of temples,  
 LO ! his home is but a hovel,  
 Husks his fare and rags his raiment,  
 But he murmurs morn and even,  
 "I have learned to be contented."

Thus he kneels and thus he chanteth,  
 Facing ever to the westward,  
 With his nerveless hands to skyward.  
 While the tyrant, softly treading,  
 Binds his ankles firm with fetters,  
 Leaning on his bended shoulders,  
 Binds upon his wrists uplifted  
 Heavy burnished brazen shackles ;  
 But he sees no bonds or fetters,  
 For his upturned eyes are blinded,  
 Blinded by their garish gleaming.

In the dust he kneels, his chanting  
 All the thrush's love-song drowning ;  
 Drowning all the busy humming  
 Of the brown bee, nectar-laden ;  
 Drowning all the brooklet's purling,