

arians, we still expect that the incoming of the Jews will be as life from the dead to the Gentiles. And hence we watch with special interest every turn that elevates that people.

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*From the New-York Observer.*

### PAUL AND A SLEEPY HEARER.

It is sometimes erroneously said that sleeping in church was unknown till our day. If it is any comfort to those who do that thing, they can plead antiquity. There is a case, plain as day, in the New Testament. But if sleepy hearers refer to it, I beg they will go through the whole story. If the record gives the case of a slumberer at church, so does it tell us what a *dreadful waking up* he got! That young man Eutychus "sunk down with sleep"—many go as far as that comfortably—but go on; "and fell down from the third loft, and was taken up DEAD."

Now if they had taken him up terribly *frightened* only it would not have been so affecting; and nothing *astounding* if they had taken him up *ashamed*. But when we come to the fact that the sleeper was *dead*, and got his death too by getting asleep in church, these things look alarming for church sleepers. If a nap at church may cost a man his life, people had better wake up about the matter. I do not know that we should ever have known much about this young church sleeper if he had not been such a sleeper. But he helped Paul's good name too. Now it was not one of the most respectful things possible to nod with drowsiness, under his preaching, much less to "sink down with sleep." As it would hardly seem out of place to rebuke such indulgence with all authority, and in the proper place, no doubt the Apostle would do it. Paul was a strickler for having things "done decently and in order," and as church sleeping does not belong to either of these, the thing would be likely to get its due on a suitable occasion.

But something must be done for this young man before he can be rebuked a dead man. He is *dead*! You cannot rebuke a dead man. So the first thing to be done is to show him a great kindness, which Paul went down and fell upon him, and embracing him, said, "Trouble not yourselves for his life is in him."

It was a comfort to Paul's benevolent heart to treat so kindly one who had got a sad mishap, though it was by a deep sleep under his preaching. A comfort it certainly must have been to the young man to have his death-slumber so mercifully ended. And the comfort of the occasion went forth to a still larger circle, for the record is, "And they brought the young man alive, and were not a little comforted." He was thoroughly waked up by this time, there was no question. He had had his last nap it is likely he would ever know in church.

What a mercy that young sleeper had a kind Apostle at hand for his relief! What if church sleepers now were to put off slumber in the Sanctuary till they were as well provided against mishaps! Would not the sorrows of many a preacher be abridged? And would not the slumberers themselves be saved a little shame?

SIMON.