

from place to place in large centres of population, especially in New York City. Statistics show that there has been a vast amount of church building which has been hasty and unwisely conceived. In New York City there are several churches which have, during the last thirty years, been substantially and elegantly built, and yet their congregations have removed to different sites, the vacated buildings becoming Jewish synagogues or theatres or places of business.

In some cases these edifices were erected at great cost by liberal contributions from the laity, and frequently as memorials of departed friends, or given specially with reference to some endeared associations connected with the sites occupied by the churches, and yet within the recollection of a generation these buildings have been sold, quite regardless of the feelings which prompted their erection in the first instance. It may, therefore, be a question whether the Western bishop with his "church on wheels" has not solved the problem, and for the present necessity will it not be wiser to have our houses of worship so constructed that they can be moved at the whim or caprice of a congregation? If, for example, an edifice should be erected on Avenue A, and the congregation should be unfortunate enough to have called a minister who has the popular gift to attract the wealthy and to repress the poor, it would then be an easy matter to transport this church on wheels to some vacant lot in some fashionable avenue where churches flourish and live in the sunshine of prosperity.

In London the "iron church" has long been used for the accommodation of temporary congregations, and some

of these structures are exceedingly comely, not to say handsome edifices. They are so constructed that in the event of a demand being made for a stone church the new structure can be erected over the temporary iron church. Buildings of this kind are not permitted in New York and other large cities in this country, but as they have not the objections attached to them which apply to wooden buildings there would seem to be no reason why special acts of legislation should not be passed so as to permit the use of iron churches.

The wonder is that the people have not grown tired of contributing thousands of dollars for substantial stone walls, handsome stained-glass windows, marble memorials, and other expensive adjuncts to places of worship, which in all probability within the short space of thirty years will be sold for secular uses and add grace, dignity, and even solemnity to an express office, a Jewish synagogue, or even a theatre.

It is said the masses very rarely take to a theatre which had been once a Christian place of worship. Herein surely "the children of this generation are wiser than the children of light," for where ministers, deacons, trustees, and vestrymen see no impropriety in secularizing their places of worship, the worldly public having some sense of the fitness of things feel otherwise.

In a rapidly developing community, such as we have in America, the question must sooner or later be raised, whether too much money is not spent in building churches of which there was not the least evidence that they would be permanent and enduring structures to the glory of God for generations to come.

#### EDITORIAL NOTES.

##### Some Helpful Books.

AMONG the many volumes recently appearing there are several which it is a pleasure to bring to the attention of

our readers as eminently helpful. A. C. Armstrong & Son have brought "The Expositor's Bible" nearer completion by the addition of a volume on the Epistles of St. Peter, from the pen of Pro-