

evidence of conversion, and they are reported as such accordingly. These converts in connection with union meetings are assigned to particular churches, or are received into the local church as converts—while the subjects themselves soon find that ‘they have no life in them,’ and either relapse into indifference, and become sceptical as to real experience, or remain nominal members of the Church, and are mere ‘lumber on deck,’ with no power over sin, or power to influence others to turn from ungodliness; ‘Sa’t without savor,’ ‘Clouds without rain,’ ‘Trees whose fruit withereth.’

“There is a tendency to lower the standard of real, scriptural, spiritual life to a semi-religious worldly level, to meet the growing tendency to superficiality. The amusements that are introduced and tolerated in various churches, and apologized for by the ministers and members, are in evidence of this tendency. Church festivals, entertainments and novel worldly expedients to draw and hold young people, and to raise money for religious purposes all tend to weaken religious convictions; to arrest in the hearts of converts and church members the aspiration of the soul for spiritual good; to suppress Christian testimony; and to annihilate the distinction which Jesus made between those that ‘were not of the world’ and those who are of the world.

“The outcome of these tendencies is to be deplored. They neutralize the plain, wholesome and soul-saving truths of the Gospel as preached by God’s faithful ministers; they tend to discourage the faithful, intelligent and conscientious among God’s ‘little ones,’ and to ‘grieve whom the Lord hath not grieved.’”

The editor of the *Golden Rule* says: “The Protestants