

the close of the 2nd century onward the tendency of churches, in general, has been downwards towards demoralization. The object of the writer is to point out the cause, as far as possible, by illustrations drawn from the present.

The gospel ministry in cities is at length brought face to face with the results of the religious teaching on the rising generation ; and complaints are bitter indeed. In regard to the absorbing devotion to sport, newspapers must bear their share of blame : because putting sporting clubs on a par with the first institutions of the land, and a successful sport on the very pinnacle of glory. Then anything the newspapers might do for religion by reporting Sabbath work is effaced by the ever expanding records of ongoing on the Saturday previous.

Natural consequences of this attention to sport are that a religious service has to be changed into one of the amusements of the