

DR. CHALMERS beautifully said: "The little that I have seen in the world, and know of the history of mankind, teaches me to look upon their errors in sorrow, not in anger. When I take the history of one poor heart that has sinned and suffered, and represent to myself the struggles and temptation it passed through,—the brief pulsation of joy; the tears of regret; the feebleness of purpose; the scorn of the world that has little charity; the desolation of the soul's sanctuary, and threatening voice within; happiness gone,—I would fain leave the erring soul of my fellow-man with Him from whose hand it came."

### THE MINIMUM CHRISTIAN.

The minimum Christian! And who is he? The Christian who is going to heaven at the cheapest rate possible. The Christian who intends to get all of the world he can, and not meet the worldling's doom. The Christian who aims to have as little religion as he may without lacking it altogether.

The minimum Christian goes to church in the morning; and in the afternoon also, unless it rains, or is too warm, or too cold, or he is sleepy, or has a headache from eating too much dinner. He listens most respectfully to the preacher, and joins in prayer and praise. He applies the truth very judiciously, sometimes to himself, oftener to his neighbors.

The minimum Christian is very friendly to all good works. He wishes them well, but it is not in his power to do much for them. The Sabbath-school he looks upon as an admirable institution, especially for the neglected and ignorant. It is not convenient however for him to take a class. His business engagements are so pressing during the week that he needs the Sabbath as a day of rest; nor does he think himself qualified to act as a

teacher. There are so many persons better prepared for this important duty that he must beg to be excused. He is very friendly to home and foreign missions and colportage, and gives his mite. He thinks there are "too many appeals;" but he gives if not enough to save his reputation, pretty near it; at all events he aims at it.

The minimum Christian is not clear on a number of points. The opera and dancing, the theatre and card playing, and large fashionable parties give him much trouble. He cannot see the harm in this, or that, or the other popular amusement. There is nothing in the Bible against it. He does not see but that a man may be a Christian, and dance or go to the opera. He knows several excellent persons who do. Why should not he? He stands so close to the dividing line between the people of God and the people of the world, that it is hard to say on which side of it he is actually to be found.

Ah, my brother, are you making this attempt? Beware, lest you find at last that in trying to get to heaven with a little religion, you miss it altogether; lest, without gaining the whole world, you lose your own soul.

### CANADIAN HOMES FOR RAGGED AND RESCUED CHILDREN.

[We very much desire to get our readers interested in the noble work of seeking out poor orphan children in the cities of Britain, then training them up in the fear of the Lord under the eye of refined Christian Ladies, and afterwards getting them into homes in Canada, where their Christian training would be a matter of prime importance. In a matter of this kind there is nothing like acts (which are not only often strange, but always sweeter than fiction) such as the following, contained in a letter to Dr. Blaikie of Edinburgh, by Miss Bilbrough, and which she has kindly sent us for publication.]—*En. C. C. M.*