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CHRISTMAS BELLS.

I heard the bells on Christmas day Their old familiar carols play, And wild and sweet The words repeat Of peace on earth, good will to men !

And thought how, as the day had come, The belfries of all Christendom

Had rolled along The unbroken song

Of peace on earth, good will to men !

Till ringing, singing on its way, The world revolved from night to day, A voice, a chime,

A chant sublime Of peace on earth, good will to men !

But in despair I bowed my head-"There is no peace on earth," I said ; "For hate is strong, And mocks the song Of peace on earth, good will to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep, "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep ! The wrong shall fail,

The right prevail,

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With peace on earth, good will to men!" -Henry W. Longfellow.

Repudiated .- The American Medical Temperance Association, its members being experienced physicians and teachers of the medical art, has unanimously passed a resolution "utterly repudiating the theories regarding alcohol held by Professor Atwater, regarding them as "erroneous and a source of danger."

Improvement Begins With Us .--Mr. Moody was once asked, "How can we make our prayer meetings more interesting ?" His answer was : "Well, be more interesting yourself, that is one way." There was good sense in that answer. Let the brother who has a dull mid-week service try it. A baptism of the Holy Spirit will be a good beginning.

H

A Safeguard Against Evil.-A superintendent of a seamen's mission is reported as saying that a certain young sailor, who had signed a temperance pledge and wore the white ribbon, was compelled later to enter a hospital. The physician at first prescribed brandy, but noticing the white ribbon, he changed the prescription, remarking, "I can give you something that will take the place of it ; I never mean to do anything that will rouse a dormant appetite if I can help it." Oftentimes badges of right kinds of organizations serve as a sure safeguard against evils and temptations. General Booth is quoted as saying on one occasion to a company of the Salvation

Army : "You'll often be laughed at after you put on this uniform, but you'll not so often be tempted. All the devils run from a soldier that shows his colors."

M

Work, Not Words. - A Presbyterian church in Dayton, Ohio, has a Men's League, whose watchword is, "Work, not words," and their pledge is : " I will do anything reasonable when asked." This is an excellent principle to adopt. Very often the members of a religious organization decline to fall into line with the suggestions of the leader because not in harmony with their own ideas. A much better plan is to secure an energetic and common sense captain, and then obey his orders so long as his requests are reasonable.

Killing the Elephant.-The Church Economist tells how the Y.M.C.A. of Holyoke, Mass., got rid of a troublesome debt. Over their building they floated a flag bearing the picture of a huge white elephant. It naturally excited curiosity, which turned into a laugh when pledge cards were circulated, at the top of which were copies of the same picture, under it being the words: "Our White Elephant; ten years old. Value, \$54,000. His 'Keep' costs over \$2,000 a year. Let us get rid of him!" Forty-six thousand dollars of the total have been quickly secured by this device, which would doubtless be equally efficacious in dealing with a church debt. Anything that makes an easy thing of a debt is effective, and to make people laugh is generally to induce them to "whack up.'

H

Reality vs. Sham. - A recent despatch from London tells a story with a moral. When the executors of a doctor's estate came to examine his books. they found a record of cash repeatedly paid, for no accountable purpose, to a person of whom nothing was known. Investigation revealed the fact that the man, just deceased, had never been a properly qualified doctor; that he had not passed his examinations or earned his diploma; but that he had bired another man to personate him, pass the examinations, and take out the diploma in his name. The scheme proved successful, but what a fearful price the sham practitioner had to pay. For years the sharer of his guilty secret had exacted tribute as the price of silence. For years the pseudo physician was haunted with the fear that some fatal circum-stance would reveal the fraud. And then, after all, the truth came out, and left his memory blackened and his family disgraced. For solid comfort, give us reality. Pretence is never worth while. As a wise woman has said, "Let us hide

nothing, and we shall not be afraid of being found out. Let us put on nothing, and we shall never cringe. Let us assume nothing, and we shall not be mortified. Let us do and say nothing untrue, and we shall not fear to have the deepest springs of our lives sought out, or our most secret motives analyzed. Nothing gives such upright dignity of mien as the consciousness, "I am what I pretend to be. About me there is nomake-believe."

H.

Present the Bright Side. A correspondent of the Christian Work sends in a pathetic appeal for that journal to speak a word to the ministers about the depressing and injurious influence of gloomy sermons. "There are so many sad things," he says, "happening all about us, so many real cares and troubles in every life, that to continually dwell on the mournful side in sermon time is only adding care to the depressed. I would not needlessly criticize any minister, but I have so often felt my own temperature lowered, and seen the same effects on others, resulting from a sermon full of sad incidents and emphasis laid chiefly on the misfortunes of life, that I have concluded that some preachers think such sermons helpful. Would you not say the things that lift out of gloom, and encouragement tending to practical activity, really make the effective sermons? Otherwise, the young people are driven from the church, and even the old attendants are depressed and disheartened; and they can scarcely tell why."

H

Quite Right .- A manual of a Christian Science church, under "Qualifications of Officers," says : "Only those persons shall be eligible to office in the church and Sunday-school who have proven themselves to be strict adherents to the doctrines and principles taught in our text-book, 'Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures,' by Mary Baker G. Eddy, and other writings by the same author, who are regular subscribers for the Christian Science Journal and Sentinel, and own the current Quar-terly and the Church Manual containing the latest by laws of the Mother Church. The Central Christian Advocate in commenting on this says : " Of course all that means uniformity, aggressiveness, enthusiasm, because the office bearers in the Church and Sunday-school are in touch with the constant streams of instruction and enthusiasm. Is there no hint for us here? Would it not be the very best thing for the churches if all our office-bearers read regularly the organs of the Church ? They would have And where the fire is, information. there will the fire burn.'

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