

Ah! no, it is not the lack of *gifts*, but of *grace* that has developed this large and most unsatisfactory class of church-members, among whom, perchance, the reader himself is found. And how terrible then, if, after having been called, and sent into the harvest field to work, any of us should have to meet the Master at last with the mournful account,—

“ Nothing but leaves ; no ripened sheaves
 Garnered of life’s fair grain ;
 We sowed our seed,—lo, tares and weeds,
 Words, idle words for earnest deeds ;
 Reaping, we find with pain,
 Nothing but leaves ! ”

THE CASE OF MR. GEO. H. STUART.

This gentleman, so generally and favorably known through his connection with the Christian Commission, and his sympathy with all true Christians has brought upon him the censure of the church (Reformed Presbyterian), with which he is connected. At the meeting of the Synod of that church in Pittsburg, May last, Rev. Dr. Douglass offered the following :

“ Whereas, General Synod at its last meeting, re-affirmed the principles of the Reformed Presbyterian Church on the subject of psalmody, and declared that the one hundred and fifty Scripture Psalms only are to be used in the public social worship of God ; and, whereas, Geo. H. Stuart, Esq., asserted boldly on the floor of this Synod yesterday, that he was in the habit of singing hymns of human composition, in direct contravention and defiance of the long established and re-affirmed law of the Church on the subject ; therefore,

“ Resolved, that he be referred to the session of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church at Philadelphia, to be dealt with for a gross violation of the established order of this Church in the use of human psalmody, according to the order and discipline of the Church in such cases.”

Mr. Stuart was *suspended* from his seat in the Synod, from the exercise of the functions of the Eldership, and from the communion of the Church !

We had supposed that the perpetration of such a piece of petty tyranny, at least by any church arrogating to itself the title of “ Reformed,” had been impossible, in this enlightened age. It seems, however, that the spirit of Popery will thrive, where not jealously watched and uprooted, even in soil claimed to be super-eminently Protestant. “ Hymns of human composition ” indeed ! as if Rouse’s uncouth version of the Psalms were divine ! We fear that if Paul had been a member of this Reformed Synod it would have gone even harder with him than it has done with Mr. Stuart ; for while the latter only used, Paul dared even to recommend the singing of “ Psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs,” in “ the public worship of God,” contrary to the statutes of the said Reformed Synod, in such case made and provided. Perhaps the Synod believes, however, that the *Psalms* he recommended, were John Rouse’s version, though we must express our doubts. And then what about the *hymns* and the *spiritual songs* ?

There is some force in the remark of one of our cotemporaries :—

“ That if the Psalms of David only are to be used in the musical part of Divine worship, what authority has the church for using any other tunes than those which David used ? And the same might be said in regard to praying and preaching. To be consistent the Reformed Presbyterian Church ought to confine itself to the prayers recorded in Scripture, and the reading of the discourses found therein. Of the latter, there are Christ’s sermon on the Mount, Paul’s discourse