

portrayed in the illustrated newspapers. But what would be thought of American civilisation?"

Yes: and suppose "the Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, and Baptist" Churches of our whole Christendom should institute church "*fairs*," at which each should vie with the other in turning a quantity of pennies that are not honest, and in filching under false pretences the money of comers and goers, thereby at one and the same time increasing the Church revenues and decreasing the Church honour and honesty, what *then* "would be thought of our American civilisation?"

And suppose "the Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, and Baptist" Churches should put forth to public notice a patch-work quilt, or a gold-headed cane, or a fine jewelled chronometer, or the smartest and sweetest lady teacher in the Sunday school, or any other convenient and captivating "stake," *to be voted for* by the crowd of eager and clamorous contestants, for so-much of a money consideration; and suppose that as the result of all this pious (?) competitive chicanery, "the Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian or Baptist" Church should realise \$1,000 to buy a pipe organ for the new church, or *send the gospel to the heathen*, or to pay the current expenses of a sensational scandal suit on account of their preacher, what then, we beg leave to submit, would be thought of our American civilisation?

The affecting of all this pious horror on account of a religious boat-race on the Hudson, while the thousand-and-one other impieties and dishonesties that "the Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, or Baptist" Churches are daily practising, are either wholly ignored, or tacitly commended, or "charitably" winked at, is either the boldest inconsistency or the baldest hypocrisy. A boat-race is not a more unchristian thing than a church raffle. The "Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, or Baptist" Church would not compromise its piety or its decency one whit more in running a yacht race, or in running a foot-race, or in running down a greased pig, than it *does* compromise its piety and its religious decency by upholding and patronising the modern church festival or fair, with all its anti-christian accompaniments.

Our American civilisation and our American Christianisation will be set down (as it already is) as an arrant sham, and a contemptible humbug, in just so far as it gives countenance to and upholds *all* or *any* of these devilish iniquities. *And it ought to be!* Amen.

THE laxity of morals now so alarmingly pervading nearly every department of social and civil life, and exerting a baleful influence in even religious orders professedly devoted to Christianity, calls for a more practical religion. The time imperatively demands a religion that will not only exhibit a more Christ-like life, but a religion that will characterise lying, cheating, defrauding, and stealing by their proper names.