

"Sensationalism Run Mad."

In the March number of THE REVIEW we quoted a paragraph from one of our leading dailies, purporting to state what had occurred in a Western city, and we added a brief comment thereon with the heading quoted above, based upon the assumption that the affair had been reported correctly. We are glad to learn from the minister himself that the report was wholly incorrect. While we would not abate one jot from the severity of our criticism of the supposed case, we gladly take opportunity to set the matter before our readers in its corrected form. Least of all was any injustice intended to a worthy servant of Christ. It was a mistake in quoting the paragraph not to omit the local references. We summarize the statement of facts received.

"First, Let me disclaim all notion of sensationalism. . . .

"Second, Let me inform you that the experiment was not performed in a church service at all nor in illustration of a sermon. It occurred in connection with a lecture on tobacco, second in a course on personal purity, to men only, to which admission was gained only by ticket, and to which no ladies or boys were admitted. The course is being given in connection with a series of revival services in the church, and has for its object the warning of our men of the danger and death in their vices and impurity. I have read with stirred heart your trumpet calls to the ministers of our land and deeply felt the force of the same. So as the new year opened I gave myself with burdened soul to the conversion of the unsaved of the city in which I live. But how shall the lost be convicted of sin that they may be saved? The Bible way is to both show them their sins and also that death is the consequence of the same. The particular experiment under criticism is certainly very effective for that purpose, as appears both by its nature and the actual good done here. You will certainly admit therefore that, if performed before the right ones at the right time for the right purpose, the experiment is surely as proper as if performed, as it usually is, for purely scientific information. . . .

"Third, What effect follows the clear presentation of the results of vice such as I have given in this city the past seven weeks? Not indifference at least! The city has been greatly moved, fifty young men have professed Christ, as many more young women,

one hundred married men and women also, a total of two hundred people, and others coming to Jesus every night. Besides, I have personal knowledge of one hundred men who have abandoned the habit of tobacco directly, so they say, because I caused them to see the deadly effects by that experiment. The entire official board of my church stand ready to verify these facts and to indorse my methods. You will say that the same results would have followed had the objectionable methods been omitted. Very well, will you kindly inform me where and when such results have appeared as these, and then show me your reasons for thinking that the same methods would have secured the same results here? When a minister must choose between the lives of two worthless cats, destined by their owners to death anyhow, and one hundred reformed men, half of them young men, there must be valid and important reasons if he choose the cats."

As our readers will perceive, this statement gives the case a very different aspect. We see nothing in it that is not legitimate and commendable. We know something of the inveteracy of the tobacco habit, especially in the West, altho the East now bids fair with its cigarette craze to surpass the West; and we have never known any successful efforts to meet the case until the experiment of this Western pastor. THE HOMILETIC REVIEW has never objected to methods because they were *new*, but only when in their newness they parted company with God's truth or discredited it.

The Ideal Newspaper.

APROPOS of the recent discussion of the ideal of a Christian newspaper, by the clergymen of New York city, some of our older readers will recall the fact that the *New York World*, now looked upon as one of the leaders in "yellow journalism," was originally established to meet this end! It is questionable whether the discussion will result in the ideal newspaper, but it seems already to have resulted in such a rousing of conscience over the country as to lead many of the libraries and clubs to exclude the products of the "new journalism" from their reading-rooms. Let the good work go on.