

## THIS IS MY PLACE.

A story is told in a recent issue of a Chester newspaper that the Bishop of Chester, accompanied by some members of his family, had seated himself for Divine Service in one of the churches of that city, and was so found by the habitual occupant of that particular seat, who happened to arrive later than usual. The latter thereupon addressed words to the Bishop, which caused him at once to retire to another spot, and soon after his disturber learning whom it was that he had thus treated, suffered from shame and confusion of face. What happened to the Bishop of Chester in his own Cathedral city is happening frequently in hundreds of God's houses throughout the land. Naturally selfishness and bad manners would be the prevailing characteristics of any pewholder who thus acted towards his Bishop, or indeed towards any one else. But the saddest part of the business is the lack of Gospel influence which ought to be more especially marked by those who frequent the House of God. Have those who think only of themselves, when engaged in the act of worship, really grasped what true Christianity consists of? We submit that the essence of Christianity is self-denial, and we further venture to point out that the *habitat* of this cardinal grace is not to be found in a church pew.

THE *Kalendar* says: "The reports of secular papers can hardly be expected to attain perfect accuracy in details, and their mistakes in ritual terms especially, are occasionally amusing, not to clergymen only. The Detroit 'Free Press' for instance, is

not content to allow Bishop Potter to preach, without informing us that after a certain hymn, he "ascended the Altar, and proceeded with the delivery of the Installation Address." Which reminds us of the still more remarkable statement of a New York City paper, ("The Herald," if we are not mistaken,) on the consecration of Bishop Wainwright in Trinity Church, 1853, that ten Bishops present were all "seated on the Altar." These lapses are readily explained, no doubt, by the Methodist use of "Altar," for the space which encloses it, or as we should say, the chancel." But the "Press" also tells us that the "Veni Creator Spiritus" was sung "autophonically" by the Presiding Bishop and choir, at a recent consecration, and that "this was followed by the presentation of the tradition of the Scriptures or Bible to Bishop Warthington, the ceremonies being concluded by prayer and the laying on of hands of the Presiding Bishop and the other Bishops."

It is sad to hear the communicant complain, "The sermons never give me any comfort." What could more clearly show, both ignorance of the nature of Christian peace, and the province and power of conscience? The only peace in which the Christian should see comfort, is the "peace of God;" which man can neither give nor take away. As for the sermon, it may disturb a false peace by arousing the reproving voice of a guilty conscience.—*Living Church*.

It is through loss that all gain in this world is made. The winter leaves must fall that the summer leaves may grow.