

OUR HOUSES OF PRAYER.

WHERE THE PEOPLE OF ST. JOHN WORSHIP.

Interesting Statistics Concerning the Churches of the City—The Wealthiest Church in St. John—The Number of Communicants.

About every nine hundred persons in St. John have a church, chapel mission or other place of worship which is entirely their own. There are distributed among our city's population of about 45,000 people fifty or more different institutions for the interpretation of the Gospel, the praise of God, and the improvement of man.

There is in the city a church property valued at nearly two million dollars and about \$175,000 are raised annually for the support of the churches. When figured as massed in this way some idea can be gathered of the magnitude of church effort and its importance in the community, and people can begin to appreciate what a responsibility rests upon the churches to put to the best use the immense interests entrusted to their keeping so that they will be most productive of good. These figures, too do not represent all, for besides the monies raised there is the immense amount of time that is given gratuitously to the churches by hundreds of workers, which, if it could be represented in money, would swell the possessions of the churches immensely.

The churches are divided among the different congregations as follows: episcopal 9; methodist 7; presbyterian 6; baptist 6; Roman catholic 5; free baptist 3; congregational 1; reformed presbyterian independent 1; reformed baptist 1; christian 1; African methodist episcopal 1; a total of 42. But besides these there are five Salvation Army corps, 6 to 8 missions and two or three sects who do not possess houses of worship but meet in homes.

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The wealthiest church in the city is Trinity with a property worth between \$225,000 and \$250,000. The church and school house cost about \$100,000, of which about \$30,000 is the value of the memorial windows, organ, altar, &c. Then the church possesses a valuable amount of real estate situated on the south corner of King and Charlotte streets and consisting of several buildings. On the assessment lists of the city it is valued at \$91,000, and this is probably an under-estimate. Then the church owns the land upon which the church is built, and considerable bank stock, and has the dispensing for charity purposes of the interest on some trust funds.

When the church was built the trustees had \$55,000 in money. The remainder required was obtained by the issue of bonds on their real estate. The rent roll of the corporation amounts to \$6,736 and provides the bulk of the amount required for maintenance. Besides having the largest capital of the city churches it raised the largest amount of money, the amount raised in 1893 being over \$11,500.

Trinity obtained its wealth from the glebe lands which were given to the church when the city was founded and from gifts and bequests of prominent members, notably that of Chas. Merritt. St. John's church and St. James' say that Trinity is not entitled to all this property; that when these two parishes were set off Trinity kept all the property to itself whereas the two new parishes were entitled to a share.

Next in wealth to Trinity comes St. Andrew's presbyterian with a valuation of about \$100,000 and with an amount raised during the year preceding the summer of 1894 of almost \$8,800. St. Andrew's possesses considerable real estate between Queen and St. Andrews street and it is assessed in the city list for \$24,000, though its value has been given at \$30,000. The church and lot are valued at \$70,000.

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THE GENUS BOOK-AGENT.

"ASTRA" WRITES IN DEFENSE OF THIS CLASS.

The Pictures Their Unhappy Lot, and Tells of her Experiences With Them—Only Twice in her Life was a Book Agent Impertinent to Her.

It may be a singular taste, but I confess that I do love a travelling agent! I don't mean that my affections are set upon any particular one of the knights of the road, but I have a decided leaning towards him as a class. Not the lordly drummer, who "takes the road" with his cases of samples, and only does business with wholesale houses, but the house to house canvasser, who calls at your door during the very busiest part of the day, usually on washing days, and who persists in making you look at things you don't want, assuring you that you need not buy a cent's worth, and almost giving you the impression that he would really prefer keeping his stock intact, to selling any of it.

I am perfectly willing to admit that the travelling agent is frequently very annoying; he obstinately refuses to see when his intended victim is pressed for time, and he will camp on your front doorstep, or inside your hall, and unstrap his samples, after you have told him that you are due at the station in five minutes to catch the last train, with just the same deliberation as if you had merely been telling him that you had had as hour to spare, and would be pleased to devote it, to him. But still this very obtuseness in accepting intended rebuffs in part of his stock in trade, and must have been carefully cultivated, or it could never have reached its present state of perfection. Whoever heard of a shy and retiring book agent, for instance, and of what use would he be in the scheme of creation if he did exist? None at all, the moment he showed signs of mental weakness, in the form of modesty, his usefulness would be gone, and he would be placed upon the retired list at once.

It requires time to study this interesting genus properly, and not everyone would consider the game worth the powder, but I confess I have found the gentleman of the road amply repay me for all the time I have spent upon him; and the result of my observations has been, that I only wonder he is not more objectionable instead of less, considering the treatment he receives from most people. It seems to be a matter of popular belief that a travelling agent is a sort of common enemy of man, upon whom common courtesy, and ordinary civility would be quite thrown away, and therefore the only way to treat him is with the grossest rudeness, to simply insult him, if possible, and then there would be the less probability of the same one ever coming a second time.

I wonder how many of us ever stop to think of the hardships of a travelling man's life, of the weary miles he walks day after day through summer heat and winter cold, often with clothing which is sadly inadequate to protect him from the cold? How bitterly discouraging it must be to tramp from door to door always unwelcome, never sure of the reception he will meet with, telling the same monotonous story, and using the same hackneyed argument at each house, in the hope of making a sale, and nearly always meeting the same untrifling stare, the same discouragement.

I know people who consider themselves well bred, and refined above their fellows, and yet who consider it the proper thing to slam the door in the face of a travelling agent the moment he begins the fatal sentence—"I have called this morning to see if I can show you—"

Is it any wonder this class of men be come hardened after a time, and finally combine a very ready impertinence with their always ample stock of assurance. People are rough and rude to them, and why should they not return such treatment in kind?

But yet what good natured fellows they often are after all, and how far a pleasant word goes with them! I never heard an impertinent word except on two occasions, from one, and I firmly believe it is because I always make a point of thanking them for calling, even when I don't look at their goods. Perhaps they don't appreciate the humor of the situation, too, and chuckle to themselves over the idea of any one being grateful to an agent for calling. Many a whimsical glance I have caught from the eyes of a retiring knight of the road, as he responded affably—"No trouble at all, I assure you; good morning." How well the poor fellows know that they are almost universally detested, and how surprised they are at being treated with ordinary politeness. I suppose they get hardened to the feeling in time, and it becomes a sort of joke.

Not very long ago an agent with a well-developed sense of humor, called upon us just after we had moved into a new house; we had been using the axe to open a packing box, and the glittering weapon had been left in full view, leaning against the hall table. It was summer, and all the doors were open, so when I came downstairs to answer his ring, the first thing that caught my eye was the axe, and the next was the agent's eye, wandering in the same direction. "I see you are prepared for travelling agents, and always keep the axe handy," he said cheerfully, and though there was nothing I wanted amongst his

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Table with columns: Name of Church, Number of Communicants, Valuation of Property, and Amount Raised for all purposes, etc.

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Mus... A rumor has been... The production... Another concert... As a guarantee... necessary to M... name of Rev. M... identified for no... musical interest... choir of his own... able for the fo... foregone conclusi... entertainment as... few. The public... opportunity thus... this choir and the... The Saint Joh... and elocution e... pupils and friend... William street Tr... programme was... which refreshment... young people of... in their power... pleasantly. The... a new department... short hand under... Ingram of this c... the Normal sch... teacher. Miss I... few weeks in New... from the best sou... enthusiasm for h... The free classes... money and night... vantages to the p... servatory. Owin... recital was not... will be held this... building. A novel attra... month—Feb. 5... ladies' minstre... below the past... Montgomery M... Daly, Archbishop... of the regulars... forty five ladies... four and ladies... by popular vocal... will be danced... gentlemen in coo... effects. In the... will appear. Th... under the manag... ning, teacher of... least will be th... forty-five ladies... Tones... "Westward, Ho... popular in the... Robert (as his... "I'd ro... Nell." "Nell... of music?" Rob... Edward Solom... lee Taylor" and... in London last... as one of the bus... Mile Dum (H... with the Carl Ro... cently made a d... pool, Eng., in th... A lively musi... T. M'Avity & S... Rosenfeld, was... week. H. Len... acting in the tit... Miss Irene M... city, has been... in the Thomas Q...