

SHREDS AND PATCHES.

We Church of England men need to pray with the old Presbyterian minister, "Lord gie us a good conceit o' oursells." We haven't half enough a good conceit of ourselves. We do comparatively nothing because we are afraid to try. There are some people who are not born to be drowned, for the simple reason that they fear the water too much ever to venture into or upon it.

The Church of England in Canada will apparently never make any great failure upon the same principle. He who never climbs, never falls. We are saturated with pessimism. We have no conceit of ourselves. As the old hymn expressed it, "we stand shivering on the brink and fear to launch away," while others on all sides of us are dashing into the water and reaching the other side.

There is one thing the Church or England at all events excels in, and distances all competitors. She can always find admirable reasons for standing still while others go ahead. that is in the person of her rulers and representatives, and "general officers." As for the rank and file they are I suppose like the rest of mankind waiting for some one to lead them, But as some one has said, "our leaders don't lead us."

Take the case of this Twentieth Century Fund. The Methodists

have made a bold plunge, and have already raised half a million in hard cash. The Presbyterians have followed suit, and have waded in, but we still hang back full of doubts and fears. What others are doing it is impossible for us to do. Our people are apparently made of inferior stuff to their Methodist and Presbyterian brethren. It is no use asking them. In fact it is hardly worth the trouble.

A church like a man is just as rich as it feels. And the Church whose rulers are forever making a poor mouth, and crying *non possumus* will always remain miserably and pitifully poor. Our people are poor, and do poor mean things, because they have been systematically taught to feel that way.

I have lately been reading that very remarkable book by Professor Wyckoff, "The Workers." If you don't read another book between now and Easter, my advice is read it.

Professor Wyckoff undertook to work his way from the Eastern States, right across the Continent to San Francisco, and to entirely support himself by manual labor, so as to gain some practical knowledge of what is rather vaguely, called "the labour problem." He started off apparently quite penniless, and for the next two years depended wholly and solely upon what he could earn.