

## TOO MUCH MACHINERY.

Every age has its "failing" in Christian work, some part of its energy diverted from the real point at issue, something that prevents the full concentration of all its energies upon the direct upbuilding of Christ's kingdom. Not long since the different denominations of the Christian Church spent an undue proportion of their strength in maintaining denominational lines, not that these lines should be neglected, but those on the other side of them should be treated as belonging to the same family in the Lord, doing the Lord's work, companies in His army.

To-day the energy of the church has been largely diverted from this unprofitable channel, but not to run wholly in the line of direct work for Christ. This is an age of organization and machinery, and there is no doubt that while to a certain extent this is helpful, indispensable, there is a tendency to an undue increase in this line. There is no doubt a waste of energy owing to this very cause. Less machinery and more of the energy directed to the direct work of upbuilding Christ's kingdom would in many cases be more helpful. The following from the New York *Evangelist* is well worthy of consideration: "There is doubtless such a thing as too much machinery. Congregations are sometimes shorn of their real strength by this process of minute division. Their many and diverse interests forbid their moving with unity and power in any given direction. It is better to attempt a few important things, 'in committee of the whole.'" It is a great thing for a Church to move consciously forward, more aware of its success as a united body, than of the special conspicuity or activity of any of its parts."

The Christian Advocate quotes and comments thus:

A friend writes: "It appears to me that the supreme weakness of our country is a weakness for organizations of every kind, affording positions that give a little prominence, and thus gratifying a fondness for the distinction of office, but of very little usefulness beyond that. Multiplied organizations are in most instances a source of weakness for the Church whose work they are gotten up ostensibly to help, by eating up the substance and absorbing the energies of our people." Not long since a brother observed that "if it was

proposed to seek the conversion of a soul, a committee would need to be appointed, with a secretary and treasurer." A lady mourned in the presence of her family that she was on thirteen committees, and scarcely had time to eat and sleep. In such a case, machinery, instead of increasing, suffocates power.

## A MAN'S BESETTING SIN.

\* In Hebrews xii : 1, the besetting sin is referred to. Every man has some one sin that fits his humor better than any other. Other sins are either too straight for him and vex him, such as sins against his temper, or they hang loosely about him, so that though sometimes easy and delightful yet to wear them continually would prove tedious and irksome. But a man's besetting sin is good company at all times for a man, and so he may have leave to enjoy it if he cares little for the rest. Let the preacher inveigh against the man's neighbor's sin, how pleased the man is; but let the minister set against the man's sin, the man can by no means endure it. "Is there not room enough in all the Bible for the preacher to expatiate in without touching me here? Am I the only person to aim at? Or, if he must meddle with me, could he not spare me here? The Lord surely will overlook this sin. So, is it not a little one, and my soul in spite of it shall live in pleasure and happiness?"—*Chillingworth*.

The Mohammedans and Hindoos of Delhi, in India, have fallen out, and so grievous have been the differences that riots have ensued, and three men were killed. The immediate cause of the bloodshed was the profaning of the Jumna Musjeed, or Great Mosque, by a Hindoo sectarian leader, who tied a small pig in a painful posture within the sacred edifice, so that it squealed with all its might. This enraged the Mohammedans, and they at once assaulted the Hindoos. It is further said that at Bombay a society has been organized to propagate hostility to Mohammedanism and to inculcate a general knowledge of the true Hindoo religion. Hitherto the Mohammedans and Hindoos have joined together to persecute Christian converts. Now that Herod and Pilate are at open war the followers of Christ may have a rest.—*Sel.*