

"Yes."
 "And didn't have any gun, and a great big fellow came after you who did have one. What would you do?"
 "What should I do? I should streak it like lightning."
 "I should think you would, and I think, too, that you would have your own ideas as to who was the coward."

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CHRIST OR MAMMON.

The Christian faith is, roughly speaking, nominally paramount, yet what real hold does it exert over the lives of the masses? How does it control what is so significant, the pleasures of the young? How does it correct their tastes? Who reigns? Is it Christ, or Mammon in the Garb of Christ? Does the Church, in a word, hold the social community captive? Or, on the other hand, do the forces of the modern world rein and hold in check the living authority of the Christ on earth? If so, there must come a great awakening. If so, let us pray that the angel of the Lord shall come in his glory and smite us upon our side. It must be the true messenger, bringing light into the dark places, convincing the Church that the Christ Himself reigns over His people and claims the devotion of their whole being—the whole community, town and country, the government of the poor and the direction of the rich—claiming all for His great kingdom. Is it ignorance or is it party-spirit that fills men with the supposition that the Church consists of priests, and that the laymen are but the privileged spectators of the priestly tasks, without duties but those of criticism, without responsibilities but those of payment? Shall it ever be liberated from the captivity of this fatal delusion?

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

Peach Tapioca.—Soak a third of a cupful of tapioca over night in a cupful of water. In the morning drain it and cook it in a quart of water, until it is clear. Then take it from the fire and season it with lemon juice, sugar and salt to taste. Have ready nine or ten peaches that have been stewed until they are tender. Place them in the bottom of a baking dish and mix the juice that comes from them with the tapioca. Turn the tapioca over the peaches; place in a moderate oven and bake ten minutes. Serve with cream.

To Spice Plums.—Take firm, ripe plums, prick the skins and put them in a jar. To one quart of vinegar allow three pounds of sugar, one ounce of ground cloves and one ounce of cinnamon. Make a syrup and pour boiling hot over the plums. There must be a sufficient quantity of syrup to cover the fruit. Seal immediately.

For Canned Pears (unpeeled).—Wash large, firm pears in cold water, put into a kettle and cover with boiling water, and simmer until tender, but not until they begin to break or crumble. Remove from the fire and spread in pans to cool. Make a syrup of a pound of sugar to four pounds of the fruit and a quart of water and boil for five minutes, then add the juice of two lemons. Pack the pears carefully in jars, fill the jars to overflowing with the scalded liquid and seal.

THE IDEAL AND THE REAL IN CHRISTIANITY.

They who are "in Christ" may still be weak, and most unworthy, and may give occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme; but, for all that, there are good men and

there are saints. There is a difference—a deep, radical difference—between him who has, and him who has not, faith. The life of the good man may be poor and weak and feeble, and he may often sink into wrong deeds and mistaken thoughts, and yet he will be aiming at sincerity and at justice; and of purity both of thought and deed; and at peace and love, in all their soft and lovely shades of gentleness and humility. If his renewal be as yet ever so far from perfect, still his is a new life—new in its principle, new in its tendency; new in its acts. In the weakest sincere Christian there is that predominant sincerity and desire of holy walking, according to which he is called a righteous person; the Lord is pleased to give him that name, and account him so, because he is upright in heart, though he often fails. He says humbly to his God: "I have been careless, cowardly, sometimes all but mutinous; but a traitor I have never been, a deserter I have never been. I have

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