

hateful altar offered up their possessions, their honors, and not rarely their lives.

As a vice it is always and everywhere characterized by one and the same wicked feature—robbery. He who gambles attempts to gain something valuable without giving anything valuable in return. Under the disguise of this or that process or form of action the gambler robs his victim. The form is immaterial, it may be with cards or betting on a horse race, or "cornering" stock,—or in tossing pennies, the form or *modus operandi* may be this or that, but the motive, the end aimed at remains the same. In its least offensive form it is the dedication of luck; in its worst, the dedication of the highest mental abilities to the most dishonest and contemptible of purposes.

The three forms most fashionable among civilized men in modern times are these:

1st. Gambling in Club houses.

2nd. Gambling at places of public amusement and popular sports; and

3rd. Gambling in the financial investments and natural products of the country. If the Club House stands for anything desirable, honorable and it means that it gives to gentlemen of leisure and means and cultivation a convenient place to meet each other for pleasant, social intercourse and profitable interchange of opinions. A Club House was never intended to be a gambler's den; the rendezvous of disreputable persons or the scene of disreputable practices. When gentlemen frequent their club rooms for other than the high social purposes which alone justify their existence they cease to be gentlemen. When they use them as a nightly convenience to practise the gambler's tricks or skill, they become gamblers themselves, and in no sense above the common blackleg who deals the dirty pack for dishonest gains in the lowest den in the city. The corruptive influence of fashionable gambling houses in a city cannot be exaggerated. Vice is never so dangerous as when it becomes fashionable. Robbers in broadcloth breed robbers in sustain. The deadliest sweat of the poison tree drops from the upper branches. The maintenance and increase of honest manly principle is one of the highest objects for which the church should strive and statesmen plan.

But gambling is not confined to money. It intrudes into religion; and there it becomes worst of all. It leads men to neglect their duties in secret and in their families; and to trust their chances of making a great catch of fortune and eternal salvation by some lucky deals in public Revivals or Protracted meetings. But this gambling in religion ruins the soul by neglect of private duties, just as gambling for money ruins the fortune by neglect of honest daily business.

THE EGGS THAT NEVER HATCH.

There's a young man on the corner,

Filled with life, and strength and hope,

Looking far beyond the present,

With the whole world in his scope;

He is grasping at to-morrow,

That phantom none can catch:

To-day is lost. He's waiting

For the eggs that never hatch.

There's an old man over yonder,

With a worn and weary face,

With searching, anxious features,

And weak, uncertain pace.

He is living in the future,

With no desire to match

The golden Now. He's waiting

For the eggs that never hatch.

There's a world of men and women,

With their life's work yet undone,

Who are sitting, standing, moving

Beneath the same great sun:

Ever eager for the future,

But not content to snatch

The present. They are waiting

For the eggs that never hatch.

AMERICAN TENDENCIES.

The following items will show how our American friends feel the want of an Endowed church, to gather in the poor and to prevent the need of dunning and "preaching" about money as much as about the soul and the Gospel.

NO REALLY "FREE" CHURCHES.—In fact, however, a stranger, a worshipper, is, as a rule, dunned every Sunday that he enters a "free church," for a contribution, and that usually in very urgent tones. The money to defray current expenses must be raised, and the question of dollars and cents is kept in front of that of worship. In one of the "free" churches of this city it was once the custom to place a placard in front of every worshipper warning him to contribute lib-