

benevolence of the people. The heart becomes cold to things divine and spiritual. Selfishness quickly re-asserts its reign over the affections, and you must of necessity show such a diseased Christian that he is doing something for himself in all that he is asked to do for God's cause, or that he is receiving some kind of earthly equivalent before he will find a disposition to comply with the call to liberality. Hence come lists, that publish to the world every subscription above a dollar, honorary memberships, and the burdening of religious institutions with incapable and irreligious officers; hence come bazaars, funny soirees, where all laugh that do not blush, concerts with comic songs, and sentimental absurdities: all for the sake of religion. The Roman Catholics think a chapel none the worse because built by Protestant subscriptions to a lottery, or the proceeds of a St. Patrick's Society ball. But what shall we say of a Church that lays claim to very great purity, that professes in its membership to have in an especial manner come out from the world and to be separate from it, and that builds its largest edifice for the public worship of God partly by the proceeds arising from impertinent practical jokes? We have heard of certain victims within the communion of the body to which the bazaar in connection with which these practical jokes were played, belonged, whose two coins given for admission to a room, called an art gallery, but containing such illustrations as a broken tea cup for the catalogued "Ruins of China," and for admission to another, in which a doll's mitten was presented by a young lady, will burn in their hearts for many years to come. The example of the city is followed by the country. One can hardly conceive of anything, not positively immoral, more unfitted to the character of a missionary meeting, than for a minister to call upon young men to nominate young women as the prettiest in the neighbourhood, and to superintend the voting for the rival candidates to the throne of beauty, by receiving the ten cent pieces with which every vote must be accompanied!! And all this is for the cause of Christ! Surely these, and actions such as these, are wounds wherewith the Redeemer is wounded in the house of his friends.

Thus it is that Christian men think only of the end, and not of the means. They follow the Jesuits, and forget the teaching of Paul and his Master. Their cry is "money," just as the cry of the world is "money." Nor can the Church rebuke the world in its race for riches, and for the unscrupulous manner in which it seeks to gain the end, while within her own borders men are found that do not disdain some of the world's most unworthy devices for the accomplishment of the same purpose! We trust the time may soon come when all bazaars and concerts, and other secular means of enlisting men and women and their means on the side of God and truth, shall disappear; and that, meantime, our Church will take the dignified and Christian stand in the matter, which it becomes a Church with such principles and with such a history to take, striving solely for the increase of that spirit within her people, which abiding in their hearts will make them willing to spend and to be spent, with all that is theirs, in the service of their Lord and Master.

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