

# NORTH SHORE NEWS-LETTER

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## Is the Church an Up-to-date Force?

From many points of view the decreasing attendance at the services of the Church is being discussed. It is generally taken for granted that it indicates a departure from religious faith and devotion and it must be conceded that there is a decided tendency towards secularization. Many things that were formerly held sacred are now treated as common and numerous practices which would have been regarded as unchristian, if not wicked, are now commonly accepted as orderly and proper.

Sunday is no longer regarded as a Sabbath day to be given wholly to religious worship, even by religious people. The railway, the street car, the theater, the Sunday newspaper and the national sports have so completely transformed the day that if a devout Christian, who passed away fifty years ago, could now return to any one of our cities, he would not be able to recognize the first day of the week as the Sabbath.

It is not our purpose here to discuss theological questions involved in these changes, but in calling attention to the facts we present the question, are we drifting into absolute religious indifference and secularism, or is the religion of the present day taking new form?

We assume of course that in a process of change so radical there must be some loss. No great change can take place which does not deprive us of some cherished customs and some actual good. Railways and street cars, for instance, have proved an unspeakable gain in multiplying means of transportation, but the ruthless disregard of the quiet village life and of the rights of people to domestic peace incident to these modern agents, have been keenly felt as great losses.

So also in the new conditions of our religious life we lose many things which our fathers regarded as the most sacred and valuable.

The question for practical people is are we to find compensation for these lost advantages?

Religious people are deploring the comparatively limited attendance upon public worship and critics of the church are pointing to the fact as evidence of its waning influence and value. But may not this be a mere incident of the new conditions which prevail and are still growing? Is it well to assume that these changes are unattended with any adequate compensation?

In our view of the lost popularity of religious worship may we not have exaggerated the actual facts? It has become a common thing of late to compare the attendance at churches with that of popular resorts, such as picnics, theaters, sports, etc.

But it is unfair to label ourselves as a people and a nation as infidel,

or wholly secular, without regard to the facts of the case. It is still true that the church is the only institution which in any large or general degree maintains regular stationary agents of instruction, propaganda and help, by wholly voluntary means. In other words, it is the only organized force which sustains priest or pastor, or their equivalent, for constant, unceasing relation to the welfare of the people.

We may quote Waukegan City for illustration. There are twenty churches of various orders and denominations, all of them religious and nearly all christian.

These have an average of at least three services weekly, throughout the year. Two or three of them have taken a brief vacation, in part or whole, during the hot season, but these vacations will hardly bring the average number of services below the number here stated.

The attendance at these services may reach an average of two hundred, but if half that number is named we have a total attendance two or three times a week, of 2,000. Is there any other institution that can boast a similar following? And this as we have is a low estimate.

But we must add to this the fact that for every adult at church there are two children at least, in Sunday schools or other children's services. And then we must still add the meeting of priest and pastor with the people in their homes and at social occasions.

These proportion of church relation to the people are probably equalled throughout the entire country.

We have thus a measurable view of a totality of influence and power that has no parallel in all our social or political forces.

We think this question is one that calls for the serious discussion of the public press. We shall return to it with a desire to present it in its various phases and shall be pleased to publish the views of our readers, on any one of its many interesting features. —W. B.

## Removing Officials

An interesting case was tried last week in Iowa. Mayor A. M. Henderson of Marengo was ordered removed from office by Judge Byron W. Preston of Oskaloosa. Mayor Henderson was tried under the new Casson law passed by the last general assembly, intoxication in office being the charge. The citizens of the town having petitioned for the removal of the mayor, ouster proceedings were begun last June by County Attorney W. J. Kirby and Attorney General Byers. Henderson's defense was the unconstitutionality of the law, in that it did not provide a jury trial. He admitted being a drinking man but claimed that the people elected him knowing his habits. Twenty-two witnesses, among them several councilmen, testified to having seen the mayor intoxicated. Judge Preston sustained the law, and an appeal will be taken to the Supreme Court. It will be interesting and instructive to watch this case.

Not long ago we called attention to some comparatively new political methods that are steadily growing into use. One of them is the "Recall," which aims to enable the people to remove an official who proves unfit to perform the functions of his office. In the case above cited the matter is decided by law through the courts. By the "Recall" plan, the voters who elected the official are privileged to vote on his removal from office.

Doubtless it will be admitted by all right minded citizens that there should be some method of removing an official who proves recreant to his trust. Being admitted; will some of our readers give us arguments for or against either or both methods of removing an unfit official?

## Our Outlook

Some years ago I read F. M. Holland's "Liberty in the Nineteenth Century," then just published. The book discussed, or frequently made allusion to the many reforms agitated both in this country and Europe during the century. Among them the question of Sunday amusements came in for a full share of attention. The author was sometimes in favor of the proposed social, political or religious change and sometimes opposed. In either event he showed the merit of being fair, candid and outspoken. His bias in favor of Sunday freedom in matters of amusements was quite decided. He argued with much force in favor of more individual freedom. There was candor and logic in much that he said.

But the question comes constantly to the front: "Where shall the line be drawn?" The author saw no harm in Sunday fishing. It is naturally a quiet diversion, not likely to disturb or harm anyone else. It may, indeed, be almost a necessity to some poverty-stricken family who otherwise could not procure such an article of food.

But if fishing is perfectly proper why not hunting on the same ground of necessity? And so all the Sabbath-day people are disturbed by the constant crack of the sportsman's rifle, and our boys and young men are spending the day in killing off all the songsters in our woods and forests. But is not this to them an amusement? And shall not amusements be allowable on the Sabbath? Do not these boys and young men need recreation?

Yes, says some one, they need recreation but we do not want the birds killed. They add too much to the joy of life by their merry songs, and besides they are too valuable to the farmers and the fruit raisers by destroying insects. No, we do not want to allow hunting on the Sabbath, but we can go to the golf links and indulge in recreation there. That is a quiet sport and besides not likely to be near enough to the general public and the churches to be a source of annoyance to others.

No, says some one. That won't do. I can't stand the expense of golf. I can't buy an expensive outfit and pay for caddies and all of that. I will go and play baseball instead on Sunday. I can't spend the time any other day. Besides baseball is such an exciting, hilarious game. We can exercise our lungs to our heart's content and of course that is healthy for us. We haven't got to purchase or lease an expensive tract of land. We can play on any vacant lot with little or no cost. But your shouting disturbs the people who want a quiet, restful Sabbath. Well, says another, I don't like any such games anyway. If it is right to go fishing or hunting on the Sabbath, or to play golf or ball, it is just as right to go to a horse race. There you have something worth the while. You have a chance to try your luck on this or that racer. You are part of a big crowd and can have a general good time.

But does not science, does not

experience, does not the Word of God, do not all of these teach us that man needs, at regular and stated times, a day of entire rest and recreation? The Bible makes this day of rest one in seven. Common sense teaches that all the people should take the same day. But, says one, others may do as they please, but it is none of their business what I do. Isn't it? Are not all the members of a community interdependent? Are not their interests interwoven? Is not each one affected favorably or unfavorably by what his neighbor does? Can a member of society live to himself alone? Are we not all "members of one another?" If it is none of our business what our neighbor does, why are so often vexed at what he does? Why are we so disposed to criticise others, and say unkind things about them if it is none of our business what he does?

## Highland Park News

(Continued from first page)

William M. Rabory of the U. S. Geological Survey, Washington, D. C. is visiting at the home of his uncle Mr. Henry K. Coale.

Mrs. Reicher of Ottawa, Illinois is the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Hoffman and family.

Miss Lillie Bell of North Avenue is expected home from Dayton, Ohio.

Miss Ruth Riechelt will return from Woodstock, Ill., where she has been visiting, in a few days.

Judge and Mrs. Wean and their daughter Miss Wean of Ravinia Avenue have returned from Yellowstone Park where they have been for several weeks.

Mr. William H. Sherwood was the soloist at Ravinia Park Monday evening. Mr. Sherwood will remain in Highland Park for a few days the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Barnhart at the Moraine.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy O. West who have been staying at the Moraine for the past three months have returned to their Chicago home.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Marshall of Boston, the latter formerly Miss Esther Schwarz, have been visiting Mrs. Marshall's parents Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Schwarz of Vine Avenue.

Miss Bessie Smith entertained her friends Wednesday evening.

Miss Carrie Gosswiller has returned from Rockefeller where she has been visiting Miss Ellen Gosswiller.

Mrs. McGuire, Miss M. White and J. S. Demoran of Milburn were Highland Park visitors last week.

Miss Gladys Gall is visiting her aunt Mrs. Menzo Webb of Milburn.

Mrs. Edward Easton and children spent several days visiting in Chicago.

Miss Mabel Smith of Lake Forest visited Highland Park friends last week.

Miss Marie Blumel and Mr. Peter Blumel are spending their vacation in Michigan.

Miss Irene Hutchinson is visiting in Waukegan.

Misses Bell and Marjorie Meade who have been visiting at the home of their uncle Mr. Henry K. Coale have returned to their home in Kansas City, Mo.

Miss Gertrude Chandler entertained her friends with a porch party, Monday.

Mr. C. G. Phillips and family of Sheridan Road have returned from Winfield, Illinois where they have been all summer. Miss Mary Phillips is planning on returning to Vassar this fall.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stoker are visiting their parents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stoker of Bloom St.

Miss Gertrude Schaefer has as her guest Miss Vera Younkins of Butler, Pa. A number of entertainments have been given in her honor.

## RAVINIA PARK

### Last Day of the Season

Tonight will end the season of concerts at Ravinia Park, and following the custom of former years, Mr. Damrosch will present for the closing number Haydn's "Farewell Symphony." (The symphony of the candles.) Last Wednesday evening was "Request" night and on this occasion the program was made up from thousands of requests sent in to Mr. Damrosch during the past week. The attendance for the week has been above the average and the Park is preparing to care for a very large crowd both this afternoon and evening. The Electric road is to put into service every available car and will no doubt be able to handle the crowd easily.

The future of Ravinia Park is not definitely settled, but all lovers of good music will hope that there may be no change in the high standard that has always been maintained there.

### Saturday Program Sept. 4th. 3:00 P. M.

- Overture, "Sakuntala"..... Goldmark
- Evening Breezes..... Gillet
- Andante and Finale from Viola Concerto..... Mendelssohn  
(Played by all the first violins.)
- Nutcracker Suite..... Tchaikowsky
  - Overture miniature.
  - Russian Dance.
  - Chinese Dance.
  - Dance of the Miriltions.

### Intermission 30 Minutes.

- a. Ball Scene..... Berlioz
- March to the Scaffold..... Berlioz  
(From the Symphonie Fantastique.)
- Wedding March..... Mendelssohn
- Oriental Dance..... Labominsky

### 8:30 P. M. Farewell Night.

- Overture, "Erienzel"..... Wagner
- Ballet Music from the Fantomime "Les Petite Rien"..... Mozart
- Adagio from Symphony No. 4..... Beethoven
- Spanish Rhapsody..... Chabrier

### Intermission 30 Minutes.

- Allegro con Grazia from Symphony No. 6 (Pathetique)..... Tchaikowsky
- a. Arlequin..... Lalo
- b. Serenade, "Under the Balcony"..... Lacombe
- Hungarian Rhapsody No. 1..... Liszt
- Farewell Symphony..... Haydn

Miss Helen Conrad leaves Monday for Woodstock, where she will visit her brother, Mr. M. H. Conrad.

Last Saturday Mr. and Mrs. S. Levin celebrated their 20th anniversary. Mrs. Levin entertained ladies of the Eastern Star Lodge, in the afternoon.

Miss Jessie Bosley of Ladora, Iowa, is visiting Mrs. W. C. Eddy.

Miss Marjory Sotall has registered in Paris.

It is reported that Miss Helen Sullivan is going to enter Sinsinoo Mounds, in Iowa, a girls' school, where she will take up music.

Miss Edyth Wright of Chicago is visiting Mrs. Samuel Levin.

Albert Larson returned Sunday from Saugatuck, Mich., where he spent a week's vacation. Did Albert have a good time? Look at the tan on his face, that will tell you.

The High School have remodeled the athletic field. The ravine on the north end of the field has been filled up. The track is completed around the field making it a little less than a quarter mile. Four fine tennis courts have been constructed and two outdoor basket-ball courts. With the facilities now at hand the High School ought to turn out some fine athletic teams next year.

Have you seen the new street cleaning cart travel the streets? Look out for it, it's a peach.

Miss Martha Raine has been visiting Miss Elsie Moroney the past two weeks. Miss Raine's home was formerly Highland Park, but she now lives in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Miss Alice Evans is visiting friends in Chicago this week.

Miss Catherine Sullivan is home again from the Mercy Hospital. She is very sick with hay fever.

Have you got hay fever? If not you had better get it to be in style. Every one is getting it.

Tuesday school opens, Both High School and Grammar School. The High School expect a very large enrollment this term.

Mr. and Mrs. Laird, who have been the guests of Mr. Laird's sister, Mrs. Lovell, have returned to their home.

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Mrs. S. Benj. F. morning, just com Sheridan

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