OUR CLUBBING LIST.

	Regular Price	With Champion
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Whither Are We Drifting.

Presbyterian Review.

With the Saturday paper in our hand, giving in its advertising columns a list of the attractions provided for the church going public in this city on the Lord's Day, we ask the question, "Whither are we drifting?" At the Pavilion we observe a revival sermon is being delivered on "Doubtful Things;" and while the preacher is straining out gnats for the benefit of his hearers, they are drawn in crowds to witness his feats in swallowing camels. While he is busy rebuking card-playing, dancing and theatre-going, and thinks unbelievers, he is doing good, he is not only tolerating, but zealously encouraging, the turning of the worship of God into an opportunity for the display of the musical gifts of operatic singers, and is pleased to find hearers willing to endure the sermon for the sake hearing Madame So-and-so sing her solo. Special soloists are certainly a great attraction; but they cost money. They must be well advertised, and the sermon thrown in must be of a kind to draw the people of musical tastes.

But it is not at the Pavilion only that this sort of thing is going on. At another church, on a recent Sabbath, the minister was preaching on "Home." Doubtless by arrangement with the soloist, and stopping in the midst of his sermon, he gave out that he was tired, and asked, by way of refreshment, any of the choir could sing some thing about home. A young lady came forward and sang the old secular song "Home, Sweet Home." At still another church, the papers announced that the Silver Quartette will sing plantation melodies on the Sabbath evening! This musical craze is a importation from the United States, whence originates so much that is flashy and sensational. What happened at one of Sam Jones' farewell meetings in Chicago illustrates the struggles of one section to put in the modesty over another sensation, and shows how futile is the attempt to make anything sensational in religious services contribute to proper devotional feelings and true worship. A large crowd gathered, and the proceedings often with a solo on the cornet by a young lady who played the tune "The Sweet By and By," so sweetly that the crowd vociferously demanded an encore, and for some considerable time refused to allow the meeting to go on. What did the crowd care for Sam Jones's farewell in comparison with the young woman with the cornet? Absolutely nothing. They were in quest of sensation and amusement, and they showed this preference as if at a theatre or music-hall. And all this in the name of religion! We protest in the name of all who love the truth in sincerity, against the offering of unhallowed fire. We prophesy that Ichabod will very soon be written upon the doors of the churches that seek to attract crowds by such miserable artifices.

The question, Whither are we drifting? must be asked not merely in reference to the accessories of public worship, but with regard also to the thing preached. Again, let us look at the Saturday paper and read the announcements of the subjects to be treated on the Sabbath. In many cases we find they are grotesque and sensational. The old, old story of the love of Jesus seems to have lost its charm; and so there must be something more "spicy" for a religious public that seems to have of late acquired a depraved taste. There are some poor weaklings in our midst who strive to imitate Talmage, but have nothing of his genius, succeed in imitating only what is within their reach—his follies—and so make but a sorry figure, but none the less dishonoring to the gospel. There are others who pose as preachers to the times, and others, again, who seem to care little what they say or do in the pulpit so long as they can draw a crowd who will not leave before a "silver collection" is taken up. Doubtless the Apostle of the Anglo-Israel Theory deserves in the opinion of these people, the credit of bringing about this state of things in Toronto, but even "the prophet" is really becoming tame beside his competitors. The ministers who thus degrade the pulpit are evidently not aware of the crimes against pure and undefiled religion and the simple gospel of Christ they are committing, but we venture again to predict that our eyes will be opened one day to the mischief they are working. They are creating an appetite that grows by what it feeds upon. Soon their invention will tire and their themes wear out, and then some new orator will appear, who, going further than they are ready to go, will draw the crowd and leave them desolate. In the meantime, as Milton describes it:—

"A hungry sheep look up and are not fed,
But swoln with wind and the rank mist they draw,
Rot inwardly and foul contagion spread.

Churches in Toronto have suffered from sensationalism is a thankful fact. We believe that they may, grow still more solidly, and in a greater prosperity than those which are making frantic efforts to keep themselves before the public. No Presbyterian minister of this city, we are glad to say, announces his subjects or advertises a special musical programme. But in the midst of such influences as we have described, we may, unless we take great heed to our ways, possibly fall into the very errors we are reproving.

But we fear that we are not at the end of this drifting. Sam Jones, we hear, is coming. If he treats Toronto audiences to the same high spiced, pabulum as he gave to the people of Chicago, the religious public of Toronto will be still further demoralized. We do not doubt his power, in reaching a certain class; but we deny the truth of his theory that you must be vulgar to reach the vulgar, and make a travesty of the gospel to get the sinners to listen to it. Personally, and in this we know we are not singular, we do not want to listen to a sermon on the Prodigal Son which provokes laughter at every sentence, nor to fleer descriptions of the "German" which are openly and shamefully lewd. The Apostle Paul preached the gospel in Corinth to the most wicked and lascivious people of the ancient world, but he adopted no such methods as Sam Jones, American evangelists. He was determined to know nothing among men but Jesus Christ and Him crucified. The very idea of "reverence for holy things" is in danger of being driven out from amongst us, and the coming of Sam Jones will not help us to recover it. It seems to be forgotten that holiness becomes God's house, and that He is as "jealous of His own honor now as when He punished with instant death the man who touched with unhallowed hands the ark." Let us, then, who have been trained in worship reverently and with godly fear, keep ourselves free from these snares, and if our ark can be steadied only by operatic singers and sensational preachers, let it fall and let our ministers take to some honorable calling in which they can honestly glorify God, and prepare to enjoy Him forever.

Scott's Emulsion of Pure
Cod Liver Oil with Hypophosphites,
In Pulmonary Affections and Scrofulous Diseases.

Dr. Ira M. Lang, New York, says: "I have prescribed Scott's Emulsion and used it in my family and am greatly pleased with it. I have found it very serviceable in Scrofulous diseases and Pulmonary affections."

THE POTATO ROT,—ITS CAUSE AND REMEDIES.

BY J. HOYES PANTON, M.A., PROFESSOR OF NATURAL HISTORY AT THE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The use of the microscope in the fields of scientific research has revealed much that is of importance to man. Many forms of disease, about whose origin little was known, have had much light shed upon them since this instrument was employed in their study; both among animals and plants. We find now that man is constantly lashed by invisible foes—some attacking his self and others his food which he eats. During the past summer and fall a striking example the past summer and fall a striking example of the occurred in the prevalence of the so called "potato rot," which has proved a great loss throughout the Province and in many parts of the United States. In the bulletin issued in November from the Bureau of Industries, we learn that the "rot" prevailed throughout the whole southern belt of the Province. In many cases one-half to three fourths of the crop was destroyed, and in some it was not worth digging. With such disaster around us, the questions are naturally suggested. What is the cause of the "rot"? and, What remedies can be adopted?

Cause.—This disease has received a great deal of attention from botanists since the days when it became a scourge in Ireland and other parts of the British Isles, and it is now conceded to be the result of a minute fungus called *Phytophthora infestans*. This attacks all parts of the plant—leaf, stem and tubers. In those ignorant of the life history of this tiny parasitic plant little attention is paid to its appearance on the tops, and no alarm is experienced until the potatoes are affected. But being very contagious, its presence on the leaves should become a serious matter, especially when we remember that it spreads with great rapidity. It is usually indicated by the tops presenting a blotched, brownish, wilted, dead appearance. A close examination of the potatoes showing this will discover innumerable slender stems growing up out of the surface of the leaves and stems of the affected plants. These branch and swell out at the ends into pear-shaped minute bodies (spores), which are produced by millions. When ripe they separate from the stem and being exceedingly light pass into the atmosphere, where they are wafted about, many of them finally reaching the ground and or settling on plants. Under favorable conditions of moisture and heat the contents of a microscopic spore may push out a long tube, which can penetrate into any part of the potato-plant and give rise to the fungus; or may separate into several distinct but cell-like spores, which when blown through the spore wall and become the source of the parasitic plant. The mature plant varies greatly in its form and habit and always be ready to guard against failure if it appears. As last summer was favourable for its propagation, great care should be exercised in the selection of seed this spring.

Orchard and Fruit Garden for May.

Those who change their places of residence unusually do so this month, and such whether they move to village lot or to a larger place, wish to improve it by setting out fruit bearing trees and shrubs. It is a common mistake to undertake too much. An owner of a small place cannot afford to grow apples which he can buy for a small outlay, while he can by growing strawberries and other small fruits, have these in greater perfection than they can be purchased. Persons who begin their operations, whether on the small or large scale, should avoid those who advertise trees or shrubs "for immediate bearing." We know of no tree or fruit growing plant that will, or ought to bear fruit, the same season that it is planted. In planting trees so late, it is the more important to shorten in branches. Nurserymen tend always to top without regard to the size of the roots; it is safe to cut off at least half of each branch before planting. Old trees may be grafted if cions are to be had. Insects must be fought from the start. Ill-shapen branches cut off and destroy. The tent-caterpillars will pitch their tents in the forks of the branches. As soon as these are seen remove them by hand, whether gloved or not. Borers are often in trees received from the nursery, and each one should be examined as planted. Whenever sawdust is seen at the base of a young tree, a borer is at work, and must be cut or pulled out. Strawberry beds are not already mulched, apply a covering of straw between the rows, after a thorough weeding, to keep the fruit clean. The trees of a bearing orchard should have the whole ground, but a young orchard may be cropped between the rows with benefit to the trees. Potatoes or other crops that require manuring and cultivation are the best. Currants must have their season last. Currants must have their season last. Currants must have their season last