

Miscellaneous.

HOW SOME OF THE MONEY GOES.

On page 49, of "Harper's Bazar," is an interesting article on "Stewart," the merchant prince of New York city, from which we propose to make a short extract, to introduce a few remarks of our own.

Speaking of his great marble dry-goods palace, the article says: "All kinds of dry-goods can be purchased at this establishment, from a shilling calico to an India shawl, at many thousand dollars each. There are constantly on sale cashmere shawls from four to five thousand dollars each. Mr. Stewart, on a late visit to Europe, not finding articles of silk for dresses sufficiently rich and costly for the American market, whose exorbitant demands no one knows as well as he, ordered some at Lyons, of unexampled gorgeousness of material and elaborateness of embroidery. He sold in one day, at four hundred and fifty dollars each, five of these dresses to as many dames in the city of New York. Belts, or mere ribbons to correspond, cannot be bought for less than from thirty to forty dollars each. The famous black silks of Antwerp are sold every day across the counter of Stewart, at twenty-five dollars a yard. Among the prodigal customers of Stewart there are many who in one morning's shopping spend immense sums. One purchase of articles exclusively for her own toilet, the bill for which amounted to fifteen thousand dollars."

We are not prepared to say how much our lady readers should spend in dress, or what colors, shapes, styles, etc., they ought to wear. But we presume most of them have a feeling, that religion apart, there is a *modus in rebus* (which we need not translate), and that the extravagant dames referred to in the extract, however much they may observe the *mode*, overlook this *modus*. We wondered, as we read these things, whether any of these most elegant dames give in the same proportion, to promote the cause of Christ, and to relieve want and suffering? Do any of them ever listen indifferently to pathetic appeals for poor ministers, students, churches, asylums, etc., while these precious India shawls are clinging to their graceful shoulders? We wondered, too, whether this luxury and extravagance can be found in New York only; but were soon enlightened by some one at our side, as we watched an audience gathering in some large public hall, and were told that the thousand dollar shawls are not all carried about in the streets of New York. They attend the opera, theatre, concert hall and church in Philadelphia and elsewhere; and we are credibly informed that an India shawl destined to appear unless there is every thing else to match.

We have been told of costly jewels and precious stones, thousands of dollars in value, carried about on one fair hand, so that with shawls and silks, volants and jewels, wives and daughters have become dearer than ever.

As we have already said, these precious and beautiful things are not only seen in the opera and the saloons of the rich, but also make their appearance in church. And the inquiry very naturally presents itself, do church members and church goers, who indulge in these things, invest in the same proportion in the cause of the Lord? Is the same readiness manifested to lay gold and silver, or greenbacks, on the altar of the Lord as there is to make similar deposits on the counter of Stewart, or the merchants of our own city? We are afraid there are some Christian ladies who spend more upon their persons in five years, than they do for the cause of Christ in a life-time. We are afraid there are some who cheerfully lay down from one hundred to one thousand dollars for an article of fashionable attire, who think they are doing great things if they give ten dollars a year to missions or education.

We would not, however, for the world, suffer any of our sisters to think that we are blind to the extravagance of the other sex. Although a fashionably-dressed gentleman's make-up may not be as costly as that of a lady, unless he is given to wearing great diamonds, nevertheless he may and does find many ways to let the money go. There are unnecessary luxuries which consume hundreds of dollars annually. We think we could find churches, whose male members consume more in the shape of tobacco, in one year, than the amount contributed by the whole congregation, in the same length of time, for missions and education.

As we look over "Harper's Bazar," our magnificent stores, our streets crowded with elegantly dressed ladies, our congregations dressed according to the latest style, our splendid equipages, our crowded and dazzling places of amusement, and then look at the sad faces, and listen to the complaints of hard times, and no business, and a light money market, whenever we want a little money for the church, we are—to say the least—very much embarrassed! If all the ladies and gentlemen of our Evangelical Lutheran Church, within the bounds of the Synod of Pennsylvania, would deny themselves one item of luxury for one year, we might have a Jubilee offering for which coming generations would bless them.—Lutheran & Missionary.

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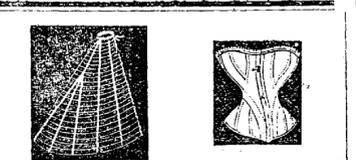
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