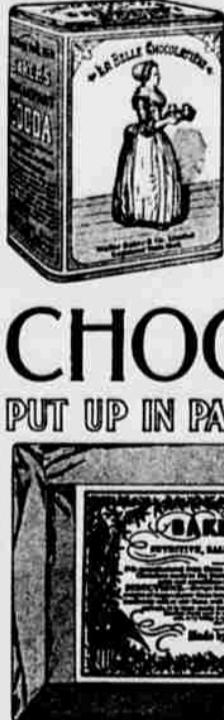


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CHURCHES AND AMUSEMENTS.

Editor The Conservative:

I have received a copy of your paper, for which please accept my thanks. The first article which I happened to see was your editorial entitled "Unclassified," in which you endeavor to suggest an explanation for the lack of interest in church going at the present day. Your argument is based upon a total misconception of the object of church going and your suggestions are thereby utterly worthless. You imply that people must be entertained and that the church does not provide entertainment which attracts the people, as many secular places of amusement do. The truth is that the church was never intended to amuse, entertain or provide diversion, pastime and sport for the careless and indolent. It is intended for the exercise of the spiritual faculties, to lead the mind away from the world and selfish pleasure and to rest for a season upon the things that be of God. If persons go to church merely to be amused, and a church exists to provide for their diversion in the way of amusement, that church were better closed and its pastor would better preach by the roadside. I refute your suggestion that women go to church "to get a mild form of excitement by the survey of gowns and millinery." It is an insult to the thousands of godly

women who find time and strength to worship God while their husbands are sitting idly over a newspaper.

It is also true that too many so-called churches are already engaged in the amusement business to their own as well as others' hurt. If that attempt to beat the devil around the stump were given up, and it were constantly taught and preached that the church is for the service of Almighty God and His praise and worship, the supposed competition with secular amusements would be at an end and the people—some of them at least—would find in the Church the way, not to entertainment, but to their everlasting salvation.

ARTHUR S. PHELPS,
Rector St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Bound Brook, N. J., Nov. 13, 1901.

A HUNDRED USEFUL YEARS.

The New York Evening Post has just celebrated its hundredth birthday. It has in all that century of usefulness been managed and edited by high-minded, cultivated, earnest and patriotic men. There has never been a superior to this journal in all the periodicals of the United States, and its present editor, Horace White, is the equal in ability and patriotic purpose of any of the long line of his illustrious predecessors.

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