

fascinating occupation whiled away many a tedious hour in the dreary church, and in spite of weekly forbidding frowns and whispered reproofs for the shrill, ear piercing squeaks elicited by turning the spindle shaped balusters, was entirely too alluring a time killer to be abandoned, and consequently descended, an hereditary church pastime, from generation to generation of the children of the puritans; and indeed it remained so strong an instinct that many a grown person, visiting in after life a church whose pews bore balustrades like the ones of his childhood, could scarce keep his itching fingers from trying them each in succession to see which ones would turn. these open balustrades also afforded fine peep holes through which, by standing or kneeling upon the shelf, a child might gaze at his neighbor; and also through which sly missiles little balls of twisted paper could be snapped, to the annoyance of some meek girl or retaliating boy, until the young marksman was ignominiously pulled down by his mother from his post of attack. and through these balustrades the same boy a few years later could thrust sly missives, also of twisted paper, to the girl whom he had once assailed and bombarded with his annoying paper bullets. through the pillared top rail a restless child in olden days often received, on a hot summer sabbath from a farmers wife or daughter in an adjoining pew, friendly and quieting gifts of sprigs of dill, or fennel, or caraway, famous anti soporifics; and on this herbivorous food he would contentedly browse as long as it lasted. an uneasy, sermon tired little girl was once given through the pew rail several stalks of caraway, and with them a large bunch of aromatic southernwood, or lads love which had been brought to meeting by the matron in the next pew, with a our controversy. i long ago learned that the conversion of a theological sinner from the error of his ways is hardly to be hoped for in any case. when the truth is loved for its own sake it is not hard to find; and it is readily perceived when found. it is then the pearl of great price for which a man will sell all that he has to obtain it as his own. luther was no doubt sincere in much that he taught: but men may be sincere in holding very erroneous dogmas, because of their being so deeply rooted in their minds and their minds being so confirmed in them that it would be almost like parting soul and body to give them up. it was said of luther, by one of the later reformers, that he cut a large piece out of the popes pontifical robe as he left the vatican, and kept it all his life as a sacred relic. this is of course highly figurative, and not to be understood literally; but to mean that he incorporated many papal errors in his subsequent teachings. my object in meeting these preachers at this place was to comply with the request of the family for me to do so. friend lowry and his wife did not appear to see the lines of truth and duty very clearly; and as they seemed desirous of learning the way i thought it important for some one to present the truth on one side, to oppose the error that was likely to be poured in from the other side. the whole thing reminded me of what i often do give medicine to counteract disease. saturday, july visit, medically, george, and noah shoemakers, joseph shoemakers, william millers; and am hurriedly called to james fitzwaters. he has been bitten by a copperhead snake. i succeed in relieving urgent symptoms; and by evening he is almost free from pain. saturday, august go to orkney springs. sunday, august have preaching at the hotel. my subject is righteousness, bottom; you can see how the base walls moved and forced up the graves on the north side. and he pointed to a shapeless heap of turf and gravestones and churchyard mould against the base of the tower. where is mr westray lord blandamer said. ask him to speak to me for a minute. he looked round about for the architect; he wondered now that he had not seen him among the crowd. the people standing near had listened to lord blandamers words. they of cullerne looked on the master of fording as being almost omnipotent. if he could not command the tower, like joshuas sun in ajalon, to stand still forthwith and not fall down, yet he had no doubt some sage scheme to suggest to the architect whereby the great disaster might be averted. where was the architect they questioned impatiently. why was he not at hand when lord blandamer wanted him where was he and in a moment westrays name was on all lips. and just then was heard a voice from the tower, calling out through the louvres of the belfry windows, very clear and distinct for all it was so high up, and for all the chatter of the