

A PLEA FOR LONG SERMONS.—Some anonymous writer, who has had his righteous soul vexed by the frequent demand of short sermons, comes down on the grumblers rough-shod. Hear him!

"A lawyer who consumes three hours in arguing a question of law relating to the ownership of a barrel of apples, is indignant at his minister for exceeding twenty-five minutes in unfolding one of the greatest principles of morality, in the observance of which the tolerable existence of society depends. The Judge who fills two hours of his opinion on the right of the counsel to challenge a witness, grumbles at his minister because he has prolonged the fundamental laws of human progress to thirty minutes. The physician who takes ten minutes to prepare the medicine for a headache is nervously restive if his minister spends only twice as many in attempting to relieve a chronic heart-ache. The belle who has spent—how long?—in adjusting the bow of her bonnet, is remorseless in her criticisms on the minister who does not finish his meditation on the Fatherhood of God in fifteen minutes. The fop, who has combed, and stroked, and perfumed, and waxed his mustaches for half an hour, is mortified past endurance if the poor minister is not through his discourse of the immortal life inside of twenty minutes. And the editor, who inflicts long prosy homilies upon his readers, becomes restive under a discourse of half an hour's length, and falls not, through his columns, to lecture the preacher upon the virtue of brevity, while, at the same time, he thinks his own dreary dissertations ought to be most cheerfully read.

It is stated that the whole cost of liquors annually made and sold in the United States, that is whiskey, either in a pure or derivative state is about \$500,000,000. In the consumption of this liquor, 60,000 lives are yearly destroyed, 100,000 men and women are sent to prison, and 200,000 children are bequeathed to poor-houses and charitable institutions. In addition, 300 murders and suicides are committed, and the expense connected with these events is \$200,000.

There is a company of Arabian jugglers performing in London whose feats excel anything achieved by any of the many Oriental wonder-workers who have visited this country. These performers appear to take their eyes out, balance themselves upright on a naked sword, eat stones, nails, glass, etc., cactus leaves and fire, run sharp instruments like iron skewers through the tongue, charm and devour serpents, and perform like revolting but most surprising and inexplicable feats.

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