

**THE SOCIABLE, THE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE
BAZAR: A DISCUSSION OF
CHURCH CUSTOMS**

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The sociable, the entertainment and the bazar: a discussion of church customs by Alfred E. Myers

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ALFRED E. MYERS

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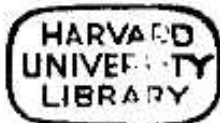
THE SOCIABLE
THE ENTERTAINMENT
AND
THE BAZAR

A DISCUSSION OF CHURCH CUSTOMS

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PREFACE.

MANY churches have drifted into customs of which the full import is not apprehended. It is because I know my brethren love the church of our blessed Redeemer, and intend to serve him in all their ways, that I hopefully commend to them the thoughts of this little book.

The treatment of the Sociable refers to an organized condition of society. Frontier and mission churches may with advantage employ expedients which would be only injurious in the ordinary social conditions of our cities, towns and villages. The loving zeal which adopts the measures herein criticised needs no praise from me, but surely the question must have arisen in many minds: Are

these peculiar customs for the glory of Christ and for the good of his church? If the answer which I have given stimulates thought and calls out a better answer, I shall be content.

OWASCO, N. Y., *March, 1888.*

I.
THE CHURCH SOCIABLE.

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I.

THE CHURCH SOCIABLE.

THE last twenty years have witnessed a change in the construction and equipment of church-edifices significant of a change in the ideas of church-life. Parlor and kitchen, cook-stove and crockery, knives, forks and spoons, are now considered important parts of church furniture and outfit. In connection with the rearing of a church-edifice recently, architect, builder and carpenters, all in turn, asked what provision was being made for Sociables; and much surprise was manifested over the reply, that the church felt no need of Sociables, and required only accommodations for worship. Persons not yet old recall the time when such a question would not have been asked. But now the social development of the church, sometimes called "cultivating the social element," is regarded as a religious duty.

The church Sociable is intended to subserve the