Sunday Reading.

Treating as a means of Electioneering.

We regard the attempt to obtain office by means of ardent spirits as one of the lowest designs to which a politician can possibly stoop. And so glaring is the inconsistency of him who would use to place and power in this way that we wonder why an intelligent and virtuous people have not long since rejected the proposal any man who would condescend to employ means so base. But the fact, that in most places, even in our own favored Union, he who dispenses liquor most freely is more apt to be preferred, is a humiliating evidence that the public morals are still within departed. Nor have we much of cause to hope for the abolition of the practice very soon until the consciences of the country become generally purer. And until it is the duty of all good citizens and especially of all christians thus to array themselves against the practice we can not.

Is he who treats a suitable man to legislate for the country? What is the object of legislation? Is it not the common good?—Does it not aim at the protection and prosperity of all the inhabitants of the land? Is it not the legitimate province of legislation to prevent man from infringing the rights of his fellow, so that all may go on unmolested in the pursuit of happiness? And is not the collective object to promote the stability and glory of the State? The question then is, does the candidate who treats give evidence that he has these desirable objects at heart? Does he evince to the public that he possesses the degree of moral virtue which is requisite in a legislator? Or, in asking to be elevated to office, does he not give valuable evidence of the profligacy for the place to which he aspires? Is he not a scattering broadcast incendiary at law? Does not treating promote drunkenness, and does not drunkenness strike at the very root of individual happiness and national prosperity? Is there anything better calculated to multiply injustice, crime, and misery, and to prevent equity, morality, and peace?

The candidate, then, who treats asks to be intrusted with the legislative interests of his country, and in the act of asking gives evidence of that very interest.—He asks to be placed in a position which will enable him to promote the public good; but, with the words upon his lips, he turns happy to the bottle—makes a vice a virtue—intoxicates anybody—scatters brutish! He asks for the glorious consideration of our fellow commonwealth to be placed in his keeping, but, while professing to lengthen the laurels, he defames and blackens it!

O strange! O unwise! We do not doubt but all who engage in the iniquitous business of treating do so in simple ignorance of its tendency, but we do say that they give as an evidence of an absence in their bosoms—Whatever may be the character of the man who treats, the practice itself is an unwise and evil, which renounces all the virtues to frown it forever from the country.

From the American Messenger.

COULD NOT FIND CHRIST.

The late Judge Niles of Vermont, while in the early part of his life was a preacher and a missionary to the new settlements, related in substance the following narrative:

"I was preaching in the western part of Pennsylvania, which was then chiefly a wilderness. I called one day on a man who lived in the forest, far from neighbors and earthly society. I asked him if he thought himself a christian. He said he had presumed to give up his religious experience.

"I then went to other parts of the land, many years absence, from the vicinity of Philadelphia. On one of my visits to my former home I found a great alteration to reign in my affectionate people. We had had a powerful revival, and almost every family was engaged in the religion. I heard of one case in particular of an unconverted man who had given himself up to despair. I was informed that he was at home, and I went to see him. He was in great distress of mind. I talked and prayed with him, and endeavored to point him to the Lamb of God. I left him in great distress of mind. I went home, and spent the day in prayer for him. In the evening I went back to see him, and he was in the same state of mind. I talked and prayed with him, and left him