

\$3.06; Mrs. Maria M. Parker, \$20; Waterville Church, \$8; Fitch Bay, \$3.20; North Stanstead, \$7.80; Boynton, \$3.02; Mount Zion Sunday School, \$10; Estate of George Robertson, \$500; Melbourne and Richmond Ladies' Missionary Society, \$12; Hamilton Church, \$10.25; James Ball, Hamilton, \$10; Jacob Whitman, Manchester, N. S., \$5; Ulverton Ladies' Aid Society, \$11.15; Rev. Thomas Baker, Hamilton, \$25; John Porteous, 20; Vankleek Hill, collections, \$2; Stedden, \$3.92; Frome, \$3; Watford, \$4; Watford, Zion Church, \$2.36; Ebenezer Church, \$2.25; Forest Church, \$3; Listowel, \$14.50; Listowel Ladies' Association, \$10; George S. Armstrong, Fergus, \$10; Speedside, collections, \$4; South Caledon, collections, \$15.57; Emmanuel Church, Montreal, \$75.

B. W. ROBERTSON, *Treasurer.*

Kingston, Ont., January 1st, 1885.

THE CLERGYMAN.

SOME OF HIS DIFFICULTIES RECOUNTED.

(*Washington Star*)

A man whom all may criticize,
The old, the young, the foolish, wise;
Who always must be keen and bright,
Though dealing with the old and trite;
Who ne'er must show the least displeasure
Or grumble in the slightest measure,
If, after working all the week,
On Sunday when he comes to speak
The handful that his preaching draws
Only respond by nods and snores;
Who daily must his visits make,
Though many a precious hour it take;
Must visit sick and visit well,
Where live the rich, where paupers dwell;
Must wed his flock, their young baptize,
And say some nice thing when one dies;
A man in whose unwilling ear
Are poured all scandals far and near;
To whom all come with care and care;
Who must his people's burdens bear;
A man whom men folk patronize
And whom the women idolize;
A man we laugh at when we can—
Such, reader, is the clergyman.

The clergyman, children, is probably the most curious specimen in our collection. His whole business consists in an endeavour to make men good, not thinking, apparently, that if all were good he would have to go out of business.

The clergyman has other duties, such, for instance, as engineering fairs, making oyster stews and lemonade, and curing love-sick people by joining them in marriage.

The clergyman is also expected to make the rounds of his parish weekly. This is not a very onerous task. It does not take all of his time. He has a few hours each week for sermon writing and sleep.

As the flock sleep while the clergyman is preparing

his sermon, they think it no more than fair that they should sleep while he is reading it.

It must be said, however, to the credit of the ladies, that they seldom go to sleep in church. They generally keep their eyes open during the service. New bonnets are worn to church.

The clergyman is paid for praying for people who would never think of praying for themselves. They know how much praying for they need, probably, and shrink from undertaking the task.

The clergyman is supposed to know everything, and yet everybody in the congregation thinks he knows more than the clergyman.

If the clergyman sticks to religion, pure and simple, the congregation complain that he gives them nothing new; if he touches upon living questions, they accuse him of preaching politics.

If the clergyman does not visit his parishioners every day or two, they say he is a very poor pastor; if he makes his visits regularly, they soon discover that he is a very poor preacher.

If he extemporizes, they complain that his discourse is rambling; if he preaches from notes, they say any fool can do that.

If a clergyman says but little at a funeral, he is called cold and unsympathetic; if he says much he is accused of gushing.

The clergyman is the last person many a man would help support, and he is the last man many ask a favour of. He is not called in till the funeral is appointed.

A man who never helped pay the clergyman while alive cannot be expected to give him anything when dead.

If a clergyman does not keep abreast of the literature of the day, the congregation say he is behind the time; if he gives them an epitome of the best thoughts of the best writers, they accuse him of plagiarism and stealing.

If a clergyman preaches short sermons, he is accused of laziness; if he preaches long sermons, the people vote him tedious.

If he dresses like other people, his appearance is said to be unministerial; if he dresses in sombre black or dons a white choker, he is charged with affectation.

If he busies himself at the fair and social, it is said that he had better put more time in his sermons; if he gives his whole time to his sermons, he is said to be a poor worker.

The clergyman, it is said, lives on the ignorance of mankind. If this be true, he should have the best of living; but a good living is a difficult thing for a clergyman to get.

When you grow up, children, if you would be rich, you should all be clergymen, but it would be better to try something else first.