

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A Change in the Editorial Staff.

It is with a keen personal regret that I announce that my associate, Rev. Newell Woolsey Wells, has severed his editorial connection with *THE HOMILETIC REVIEW*. His increasing pulpit and pastoral duties have made this step necessary. It has been a special joy to me to have this brother as a co-laborer, it having been my lot to meet in my editorial work but few men who in personal intercourse, year after year, so fully exemplify Matthew Arnold's idea of the gospel of "sweetness and light." He has that genius which is untiring industry; he is courageous, tactful, and hopeful, one like those of whom the Apostle spoke: "We are always confident . . . wherefore we labor." It is a pleasure to announce that in many ways *THE REVIEW* will continue to have the help of Rev. Newell Woolsey Wells.

An introduction to the readers of *THE REVIEW* of my new editorial associate, Dr. D. S. Gregory, is not necessary. His ability in analytical reasoning, in mental grasp, and in spiritual insight is well known in all the churches. Dr. Gregory will give nearly all his time to *THE REVIEW*.

I feel that I owe almost a personal apology to our readers for having given *THE REVIEW* so little of attention during the past five years. The *Standard Dictionary*, which has absorbed so much time and energy, being completed, I am now free to turn to my earlier joyous labor.

I. K. FUNK.

Religion in Summer.

Attention has recently been directed in a practical way to the subject of maintaining the religious services and activities of the churches during the hot weather of the summer. The clerical vacation has become well-nigh universal, and as a consequence it is often

difficult in the city to find a clergyman to marry the living, to administer consolation to the sick and dying, or to bury the dead. The Sabbath service, the prayer meeting, and the Sabbath-school, too, take a vacation, and the unfortunates who are forced to remain in the city are gospel-forsaken and drift into temporary heathenism. After two or three months of comatose condition in the church, the people and the minister begin to straggle back, and then some weeks or months, as the case may be, are required to restore suspended animation. Under such conditions the average church does well if it simply holds its own.

It is high time to look into this matter and to see what can be done to remedy the condition of affairs. Doubtless in this restless and pushing age the settled minister needs a rest, but some method of supplying his place should be devised. We are inclined to agree with a recent utterance of Rev. Dr. Rainsford, of New York City, reported in the *Commercial Advertiser*. He says, among other things:

"There should be no cessation of religious work, least of all in the summer. The church should never be closed in the summer. And clergymen should be at all times accessible. . . . Why, if I permitted my work to cease in the summer, I would be three months catching up in the fall. I have assistants, and the doors of the church never close, no matter how intense the heat. It is in reality our busiest time."

The importance of summer religious work has also been emphasized by Bishop Potter, he having taken up his residence as acting-pastor in his cathedral mission in the tenement region of the city.

There is need to remember that men sin, and die, and go to the judgment in summer as in winter, and to take that most solemn fact into our working-theory of the church.