

LETIC REVIEW will not be suspended. He has made arrangements by which it will go on uninterruptedly, the same as if he were at home. Out of the ample treasure-house of his culture and experience he will continue to instruct and interest his twenty thousand readers in the department which he conducts—"Homiletics and Pastoral Theology."

Providence favoring him, he will return in due time, enriched with additional wisdom and power to instruct his brethren—the fruit of travel, observation, and research in the land which was the theatre of the Saviour's life and teaching and the birthplace of the oracles of God.

The Professor sailed on the steamer Celtic for Liverpool, whence he makes his Eastern trip and return under the convoy of those kings of excursionists, Thomas Cook & Son.

Pulpit Notices.

It is quite time that some understanding was come to among pastors in regard to this subject. It is fast becoming a very onerous and embarrassing service, if not an evil and a positive nuisance. The pulpit in a multitude of our churches has become an "advertising medium" for all sorts of things. Pastors are burdened by their number and perplexed often by their character. Many of them are thrust into the officiating minister's hands after he has entered the desk. He has no chance to consult with any one nor to consider the propriety of reading them. Some of these notices have no business there, and yet he fears he will be blamed if he refuse to announce them. It is no uncommon thing for a preacher to rise with a dozen and even twenty "notices" in his hand to give out. We have known ten minutes spent on them, and the congregation wearied and often disgusted by the tedious routine, and in a measure unfitted for the sacred spiritual services of the sanctuary to follow.

That a *reform* is imperatively de-

manded no one will deny. There ought to be a *concert* of counsel and action on the matter. It is of grave importance enough to warrant it. A few of our leading pastors have taken the matter in hand and become a law unto themselves. While no one can blame them for adopting some measure of relief, and even a radical one, is it wise, is it quite kind, to do it? These strong men, in our strongest churches, can stand up against criticism and force the reform through in their individual pulpit. But how about the weaker brethren and the great mass of our small churches? They have scarcely the courage or the strength in themselves to start and carry through a reform, however much they feel it to be needed. The action of here and there a leading pastor and church abating the nuisance, instead of helping only embarrasses and weakens others in the absence of any general rule or concerted action.

Thus Dr. Meredith of Brooklyn has his notices printed and distributed in the pews. Few churches would be willing to incur this expense; and then such a plan only provides for the regular notices of the congregation. Dr. Paxton of New York has the Clerk of Session read them. This relieves the pastor, but not the congregation; so that no such shift meets the case.

No general rule can be laid down to govern pastors. Two or three suggestions, however, we venture to offer.

1. We see no good reason why the regular weekly services of the congregation should be repeated every Sabbath. Dr. Taylor of New York omits them altogether, and we commend his practice.

2. Each pastor should judge for himself what outside notices it is best for him to give and what to decline; and such as can be readily given through the local press he ought unhesitatingly to decline.

3. Declining to publish an offered notice of this class, or one in his