

## The Church Evangelist.

## AN INGENIOUS DEFENCE. An old darky was brought before

a Southern magistrate, not long ago, accused of stealing a neighbor's chickens when the nights were dark and no one stirred abroad. The old man put up a long but weak argument, seizing upon every possible straw to sup-port his defence. The evidence was too strong, however, and mat-ters were rapidly approaching a climax that meant a month of idleness in the town jail. The thought of this and the attendant ignominy stirred the old darky to a point where he did nothing but splutter

out, "'Pon my honor, jedge, Ise--Ise didn't done take 'em."

At last the judge grew tired, and was about to sentence him, when a broad smile illuminated the

darky's face as he cried out, "I's got it jedge; Ise can prove an alibi 'bout dem chickens." "Well, what is it?" exclaimed

the judge. "You see, jedge, no poor colored man could take dem chickens at night-time."

How's that ?- what do you mean?'

'Cause, jedge, dey's nothin' but roosters at night, and de charge am dat I took chickens.

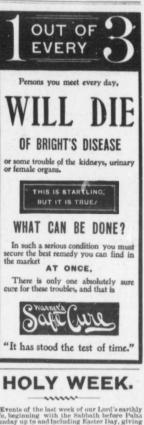
The ingenuity of the defence won the day.

## OF COURSE.

"These berths are for the passengers," said the Pullman porter to the countryman to whom he was exhibiting the new car.

"And where are your quarters?" asked the innocent visitor.

" In a good, safe bank," returned the porter, with a grin.



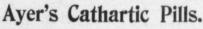
Events of the last week of our Lord's earthly life, beginning with the Sublath before Pala Sanday up to and faculating Easter Day, giving the events of each day grouped together in such by the youngest of the household, and will be of interest to the teacher or parent.

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