

only serve in conveying instruction, but are also very suitable for relieving the tedium of the lesson hour.

Dr. Stalker's classification of the churches is: "the earnestness of the Methodists, the originality of the Congregationalists, the dignity of the Episcopalians, the solidity of the Presbyterians." The extract is from a sermon to London Methodists.

From Scotland comes the intelligence that in a single county in Virginia 1,200 children are able to repeat all the questions in the *Shorter Catechism*, a fact which shows the high estimation in which the Presbyterian's *vade mecum* is held in America, and it is pleasing to learn that quite a revival of interest is being manifested in the little book, in Scotland itself, which owes so much to its precepts.

If the religious life of the United States is to be judged by the number of ministers and churches returned in the annual reports, then must the people as a whole be devout indeed. It is said that there are 112,000 ministers and churches with a seating capacity for more than 43,000,000 people. Whether the seats are generally all occupied is not stated, but to the unequal distribution of churches is laid the fact that many sections still want places of worship.

A curious incident is reported from Wales, showing the dilemma into which patronage has landed the parish of Llambarry. The patron left the election of rector in the hands of the ratepayers and tithe payers. The dissenters among them outnumbered the churchmen and the rector nominated by the dissenters was elected and installed. He may claim to belong to the "people's" if not to the "national" church.

"The first and noblest use of the imagination," says Mr. Ruskin, "is to enable us to bring to our sight the things which are recorded as belonging to our future state or as invisibly surrounding us in this. It is given us that we may imagine the cloud of witnesses in heaven and earth, and see, as if they were now present, the souls of the righteous waiting for us; that we may conceive the great army of the inhabitants of heaven and discover among them those whom we most desire to be with forever; that we may be able to vision forth the ministry of angels beside us, and see the chariots of fire on the mountains that gird us round."

The Rev. J. S. Boyd, Hillsboro, N. D., concludes an interesting article in the *Presbyterian Banner*, on the Winnipeg Assembly thus: "A Presbyterian visitor to the Assembly of the Church in Canada must feel that he is among brethren taught from youth in the same standards that have always nourished him, and in his heart, if he feels aright, will be prompted most hearty thanksgiving that in other countries, as well as our own, especially in our neighboring Dominion, there are so many scholarly, staunch, strong devoted, pious and earnest ministers and laymen helping to give the gospel to the world, and in every good work determined to hold fast till He comes."

The *Christian Leader*, in speaking of the qualifications of the ministry, goes to the heart of the matter, as follows: "Ebenezer Fisher, 'on whom the fall of man made no impression,' founded the Canton School on the theory that we need a ministry saturated with Christian Universalism—he usually prefixed the adjective. In

whatever else our ministers might come short, in this particular one there would be no failure, no serious lack, if he could prevent it. Of course he could not always prevent it. . . . The minister who knows Plato and Bacon and Shakespeare and Darwin and Matthew Arnold, in these days—however it might have been in the Ephesus of the apostles—has yet to learn whether 'there is a Holy Ghost,' may indeed take the vows of a minister and wear the title, but he is an offence to the Almighty."

QUALIFICATIONS FOR SERVICE.

At a recent conference Mr. Moody enumerated these six qualifications for service, so apt and comprehensive that they ought to be fixed on the memory:

1. Faith. The man of faith says. "I believe God can use me, but, more than that, I believe he will."
2. Courage. "God never used a moral coward in biblical history."
3. Enthusiasm. "Nowadays it takes 10,000 to put two to flight. Better zeal without knowledge, than knowledge without zeal."
4. "Stick-to-itiveness." "When men ask me, 'Moody, what's the secret of your success?' I reply: 'Go to work and stay at work, and you'll find out.'"
5. Love for the work. "Christianity is the only profession where love is absolutely essential."
6. Love for man. "Oh, for more good Samaritans! You remember that priest. He probably said: 'That unfortunate is out of my parish!' The Levite said: 'I'll have a committee appointed when I reach Jerusalem to attend to this fellow.' The good Samaritan poured on the oil of kindness and paid his hotel bill."

YOUNGEST CLERGYMAN IN THE WORLD.

The oldest living clergyman in Great Britain is a Devonshire vicar, who has attained the patriarchal age of 100; the youngest properly-ordained clergyman in the world is said to be the Rev. Henry Banta, of Shallotte, in North Carolina. This youth was converted about three years ago, and although lame from an accident which occurred to him when a baby, he at once became an active evangelist. His earliest services were conducted in a hut in a small town in Ohio, but his fame as a powerful preacher soon spread, and he was ordained in the church of which he is now pastor. According to the *Sunday Companion*, the congregation were in want of a minister two years ago, and they unanimously offered the post to Master Banta, who accepted without hesitation. His ministry, it appears, has been very successful up to the present time, and few ministers work harder amongst their flocks. The Rev. Henry Banta is described as a frail, pale, thin lad, who appears to be not more than twelve years old, and who would never give the idea that he ministered to a large congregation, or held any position of authority.

A WARNING.

Written for the Review.

SIR,—Congregations are being visited in Toronto and elsewhere, by parties unknown to the church, for the purpose of raising funds for mission enterprises over which they themselves have entire control, and for which none of the Boards are responsible. Will you allow me to say that, before encouraging such irresponsible parties enquiry should be made, even when they come certified by distinguished names. Any seeking further information are asked to correspond with the undersigned.—

R. P. MacKAY.

Toronto, 17th July, 1897.