

wriggling tail. The only way to deal with him is to cut off his head by absolute prohibition, or, if that cannot be done, by local option wherever it can be applied. The cause is "marching

on." The present is a favorable time for hastening its progress. Let all good men and true fall in with the movement, and glorious results will soon be manifest.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

A Preacher's Spelling.

THE need of an educated ministry is a subject that has found its treatment in nearly all the religious journals of the day. And when the word "educated" is used, it is understood to mean something more than an acquaintance with the first principles of learning; rather does it signify such a disciplining of the intellectual faculties as shall qualify one to appear without fear or abashment before an intelligent audience, and compel it to a thoughtful and appreciative recognition of truth. It is hardly conceivable that any minister of the Gospel to whom orthoëpy is an unsolved mystery—in other words, who does not know how to spell—can for any length of time retain the respect of the community in which he labors, if indeed he is able to gain it at all. With the loss of respect for himself as a man there cannot continue any measure of respect for him as a minister; and where respect dies, usefulness dies with it.

We are led to these reflections by a communication from a brother who desires to give his fellow-readers of *THE HOMILETIC REVIEW* instruction along certain lines. He had "expended" his nerve force through overwork, and desired to regain it. Having bestowed much thought upon the subject, and having also made it a matter of prayer, he "finely" came upon a plan that turned out very successful. Having visited one class in his congregation during the first part of the week, he visited another class "in like maner" in the latter part, and "allway" had "courteous" treatment, while thus securing an "oportunity" of doing good work, and of "accomplishing" something for the Master. He thinks that the adoption of his plan would "benefit" others. In pursuing his pastoral work he is in the habit of "picking up Ideas by the way and putting them in" his sermon. Thus he has gained power to speak without notes, which must be regarded as a very fortunate circum-

stance, as it saves him the embarrassment of being called upon for the loan of his manuscript, and of being waited on by his church officials with the request that he publish the sermon of the preceding Sunday.

But, jesting aside, does not such a condition of things suggest the expediency of having the examination for ordination to the ministry conducted in writing, at least up to the point of ascertaining the literary qualifications of the candidate for the sacred office?

The Briggs Case.

THE decision of the General Assembly in the case of Professor Briggs has been variously received. To some it has given the greatest of satisfaction; to others the deepest grief, mingled with indignation. The discussion at Washington served to deepen our conviction that the wise policy would have been to have delayed action in the matter by a refusal to entertain the appeal of the so-called Committee of Prosecution. Feeling was wrought up to the highest pitch, and words uttered by certain of the commissioners indicated the utter impossibility of rendering a perfectly impartial judgment at this time, if, indeed, the second trial of an acquitted party is justifiable at any time, the imputed offence remaining the same.

Already some well-known ministers have thought it their duty to sever their connection with the Presbyterian Church on account of the decision. We trust the movement will not become general. It is a time for the healing of divisions rather than for the creation of new ones. At the same time, we also trust that the spirit of intolerance may develop no further. The so-called "innerrancy deliverance," while it is to be looked upon simply as the expression of the individual opinions of the commissioners, might, if urged as a doctrine, render further endurance wrong. There is no room for the spirit of the Papacy in the Protestant Church.