

by side with our Shorter Catechism, from which it differs in general order and detail although the doctrine is the same in almost every point.

Its first question is: "*What is thine only comfort in life and in death?*"

Answer: "*That I with body and soul both in life and death, am not mine own but belong unto my faithful Saviour Jesus Christ, etc.*" Question 2nd: "*How many things are necessary for thee to know in order that thou, in this comfort mayest live and die happily?*" Answer: "*Three things. First, how great my sin and misery are. Secondly, how I may be redeemed from all my sins and misery. And thirdly, how I am to be thankful to God for such redemption.*"

The Catechism, then, like the *Catechism of Geneva* (1545), which is yet older than it by eighteen years, goes on to explain the Creed, Ten Commandments, Sacraments and the Lord's prayer. Now, that the Reformed Church is about to give the world a critical edition of the Heidelberg Catechism, it would be desirable to see copies of it circulated freely among all the Reformed Churches.

AVERAGE PER MEMBER.

The Minutes for 1878 of the *United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.*, have appended to them, a *title-page* and *index* for years 1874-1878 besides the title-page and index for this present year. Four years are thus gathered into one volume of 698 pages with full index for the whole term.

By taking no account of cents in money columns and by compact arrangement of smaller type, this Church gives on one page, smaller than ours, twenty-four columns of figures, with names of ministers, congregations, and post-offices. One of these columns shows the average contribution per member for the year in each congregation in the Church. One congregation averages as high as \$72 per communicant; others are as low as \$2; but the average over the whole Church is \$10.75. In the Presbyterian Church in Canada it is \$10.42; in the Presbyterian Church (South), U. S. A., it is about \$9; in the Presbyterian (North), U.S.A., the general average is \$14.40; while in the Reformed Presbyterian Church (Covenanters), it is \$17. The Presbyterian Church (South), reserves one column to show the number of baptized non-communicants in its connection, and they, this year, number 24,968, or about one-fifth of the total number of communicants. The Reformed Church (Covenanter), under the head "Decrease," shows four columns, decrease by (1) censure, viz.: thirty-five for a membership of 10,063; (2) dismissal; (3) purging the roll; and (4) death.

So much for matters of figures and detail. It may, however, be interesting to call attention to the ways of sister Churches in regard to ecclesiastical order.

DELEGATES TO SISTER CHURCHES.

In the Presbyterian Church (North), U.S.A., the following resolution was proposed and referred to the next Assembly:—

Whereas, the different branches of the Presbyterian Church throughout the world are now associated with each other in the General Presbyterian Alliance, and *whereas*, at the Triennial Councils of the Alliance, delegates from all these Churches are present on a footing of perfect equality, and in the enjoyment of the most unreserved fellowship;