

could, in return for which he was to receive his board and clothes. When the vacation was over and I was on the eve of returning to the Seminary Mr. E. called to see me. With tears in his eyes he bade me "God speed" and departed; but not until he had slipped a half dollar into my hand. Of course, knowing something of the old man's circumstances, I appreciated the act very highly. But it was not till some time after that I learned that the old man had gone into the cotton field and picked cotton night after night by moonlight, in order to help the "young parson." The half dollar was all he had, and he gave it cheerfully.

This is the best parishioner I have ever known. Would that there were more like him.

General Clerical Anecdotes.

A FIVE DOLLAR WEDDING FEE.—A young man who had just entered the ministry was called upon to perform the wedding ceremony, his first, for a couple, whose combined ages were over one hundred and twenty years. At the close of the ceremony the groom asked what the bill amounted to. "Oh," replied the minister. "I never make any charge, whatever you think proper." But the groom insisted, declaring that it had been so long since he had been married that he had forgotten how much he ought pay. "Well," finally replied the minister, "the law gives \$3.00, but custom always gives \$5.00." His first wedding fee amounted to \$5.00. H. M. W.

MILLERTON, N. Y.

NOT LIKE BURYING A BLOOD RELATION.—I was called to attend the funeral of the wife of a well-to-do farmer in New Hampshire. The strong man wept so bitterly and was so overcome that a silent pressure of the hand was all the response he was able to make to the preacher's word of comfort.

Although not a member of my church—yet his grief seemed so deep that I deemed it my duty to visit him and did so in about a week after the funeral, paying \$2.50 for a livery, the distance being ten miles.

I had made special preparation that I might be able to comfort the poor man in his lonely estate.

After a painful pause I said, "My friend, it is great grief to lose a wife."

"Yes," he replied, "yes—but then—it is not like burying a blood relation."

It is needless to say that I beat a hasty retreat, thinking of my wasted half day and philosophizing upon the evident truth that, a man may weep and weep and—not feel very badly after all.

PENNSYLVANIA.

A NEW VERSION.—A little Kansas girl gave this original rendering of Joshua xxiv: 15:

"We serve God at our house."

COULDN'T MAKE UP HIS MIND.—A ring at the parsonage door-bell in the dusk of an autumn evening.

The parson himself answers the call, and meets a gentleman and lady, who he suspects have come to be married. His wife, being busy in the sitting room with a sick child, he conducts them at once to his study.

The weather and kindred topics are discussed for about fifteen minutes, when the gentleman intimates that he would like to see the parson alone.

They retire to the hall, when the following dialogue takes place:

Prospective Groom.—"We came here to get married, but I do not know whether we had better or not; I want you to advise me."

Parson.—"That is an unusual request. While I have no disposition to pry into matters which do not concern me, if you wish my advice, of course you must tell me something about the circumstances, or I cannot advise you intelligently."

P. G.—"The fact is, there is another girl expecting to have me; and I do not know whether I had better marry this one or not."

P.—"Which one do you love?"

P. G.—"I do not know as there is much difference about that; but the other one will be so much disappointed, I am afraid it will be a serious matter with her. I don't know but it will kill her."

P.—"What will be the effect on this one?"

P. G.—"She will be very mad, but I guess she will get over it."

P.—"It is a difficult case in which to give advice. I really do not know what to say to you. I think you will have to settle the matter yourselves."

P. G. returns to the study, while the parson descends to the sitting room and waits twenty minutes. He then returns, and as he opens the study door, he hears the lady say, "You ought to have thought of that before." He retires to an adjoining room, waits twenty minutes longer, when there is a rap on the door. The gentleman says they have decided to be married. The parson goes through with the ceremony and sends them on their way rejoicing (f).

PARSON.

WHEN SHOULD THE MARRIAGE FEE BE GIVEN?—A clergyman was called upon by a colored pair who wished to be married. Everything being found all right, the ceremony proceeded with evident embarrassment on the part of the groom, who was troubled to know where his part came in. At last the prayer was reached and the minister closing his eyes began with his usual position of hands uplifted, palms upward. At once a forward movement was made by the happy swain and two sweaty half dollars were dropped into the open hand of the astonished parson. When asked what he did under such circumstances, he answered: "Did! Why, I shut my hand and finished my prayer."