

Current Topics and Events.

CLERICAL STIPENDS.

Archdeacon Farrar, in the *Review of the Churches*, makes an urgent appeal for the better support of the clergy of the Established Church. Notwithstanding its vast endowments of glebe and tithe funds, 400 of the clergymen, he says, receive less than £50 a year, 3,500 less than £100, 7,000 receive less than £130. "Our system of patronage," he says, "is the most haphazard in the world. If a man has no private interest, his promotion becomes the merest chance."

We believe it would be of the greatest advantage to the Established Church if it were both disestablished and disendowed. If the Church were thrown upon the sympathy and voluntary support of its adherents, they would rally to its aid, and give a more generous and liberal maintenance than is now wrung by process of law from reluctant parishioners. Nothing so cuts the nerve of liberality as to feel that givings are compulsory instead of voluntary.

Another great fault of the Established Church is the inequality of income. Some livings with light duties carry with them very large incomes, while hundreds of town and city parishes have the most meagre resources. Our Methodist itinerant system does much to secure more equitable distribution and regular promotion of the labourers in the vineyard, and thus gives greater equality of income. The English Wesleyan Conference has been discussing the extension of the itinerant term to meet the exigencies found in the great towns and cities; but it will not, we venture to say, disturb the principle of the itinerancy, which has contributed so much to the success of Methodism.

OPEN THE DOORS.

It is somewhat amusing to note the

conservatism of the Wesleyan Conference in England as to the admission of the public to the Conference sessions. This year, for the first time, representatives of the press have been admitted, and we expect as a result that the important proceedings of the Conference will attract much more public attention than they have heretofore done. Now that reporters are admitted, it is felt that the general public cannot be altogether excluded, and a committee has been appointed to devise a plan whereby the invasion of the gallery may be kept within due limits. As a favour the Rev. Dr. Ridgeway, of the United States, was admitted to the gallery, and as a special favour his wife also, because, as it was pathetically remarked, "she was a stranger, and had no place else to go."

In a short time, we predict, our English friends will welcome the public, ladies as well as gentlemen, most cordially to the Conference meetings. It was feared the speakers would talk to the galleries instead of to the house. It strikes us that the speakers will address their arguments to the persons whose votes they wish to gain. We have never heard of any disadvantages in our Canadian Conferences from the presence of the hosts and hostesses of the Conference, and regard it as a great advantage that they take an interest in the *personnel* of the Conference and in the debates on Church topics.

THE DEATH OF JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER.

Throughout the English-speaking world, wherever men love liberty and hate oppression, wherever they revere high thought and honest worth, there will be unfeigned sorrow for the death of the good gray-haired poet whom God has taken to