

Come along, brother ; the more the merrier. If we are to have an annex added to the building, let us make a large one necessary.

Perhaps a few words from us may be helpful to such as have the work of the ministry under their serious consideration. It is the most glorious work to which a man can give his time and talents. To be a *Congregational* minister means to be among the very first in progress and reform, to be one of the leaders of advancing thought and Christian liberality.

There are one or two things about which a man should be certain ere he enters college to study for the ministry. He must, in the first place, be assured that he himself is a Christian, that he has been born again. We, of all denominations, cannot afford to have our pulpits occupied by men who have not answered the Lord's "Follow Me." In the next place, an intending student must be sure that he is quite willing to devote the *whole* of his life to the service of God, every talent and all his energy to be used for the Lord, howsoever and wheresoever it pleases Him. Then, too, he should feel that he has been chosen for the work ; that it is God who is seeking to draw him from the busy world a while, to prepare him for His special work.

If he be assured of these facts, and under their impulse enters college life, he must be prepared for a long and hard pull at the student's oar. In all cases where it is possible, we strongly urge the longer course of study as preferable. A man cannot be too well prepared for God's work ; he may be, and often is, lacking in knowledge which would be very useful to him, and which can only be obtained by a longer course of study.

Most probably our new student friend will not be troubled about the investment of his surplus cash. This is kindly arranged for him by the authorities, so that he may not have his thoughts distracted. He will have some pet ideals ruthlessly shattered, prominent among which will be the belief that he is a second Beecher or Spurgeon (out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh). He will make some true and lasting friendships. His college life will be happy and healthful ; and he will, if he makes use of the advantages offered, leave college a better and more spiritually-minded man than he was when he entered.

SLEEP VIEWED AS CRITICISM.

The author of an essay, spring poem, or a literary effort of some kind—we forget what it was—asked a friend to listen to him read his effort, and give a criticism on its merits. While the reading was going on the friend fell soundly asleep. The reader became indignant, and lectured the sleeper for not keeping

awake, and preparing his criticism. The drowsy critic blandly remarked :

"SLEEP IS CRITICISM."

Yes, sleep *is* criticism. It is much more intelligent and respectable criticism than some other kinds that we occasionally hear. It is *honest* criticism, which is a good deal more than can be said of all kinds. Criticism is always a revealer, and frequently it reveals much more of the character of the critic than it does of the merits of the person or thing criticised. Sometimes it shows that the critic is a candid, honest, generous, intelligent man, who can look upon all sides of a question, and do ample justice to everybody and everything. Not unfrequently it proves, with painful conclusiveness, that the critic is narrow-minded, or warped, or invincibly ignorant. Sometimes it shows that he is a censorious nibbler. In other cases it proves that he is unfair, perhaps even malicious. In many cases it demonstrates, to a certainty, that the critic is nothing more than a chronic fault-finder. If you did, or said, or wrote the thing exactly as he says it should have been done, or said, or written, he would find fault all the same. Yes, criticism is a revealer, and it generally reveals quite as much about the character of the critic as it does about the merits of the person or thing criticised.

Sleep taken in church is criticism, as well as sleep taken anywhere else. This kind of sermon criticism certainly means something. It may not take a sermon to pieces, and examine all its parts carefully, as a professor of homiletics is supposed to do ; but it certainly means something. It has a voice ! It speaks. What does it say ? What does it mean ? Sometimes it means that

THE PREACHER IS PROSY.

With all due deference to the clerical profession, we fear it must be admitted that some preachers *are* prosy. There is a lack of freshness about their modes of expression which is very apt to produce soporific effects in hot weather. The matter is often of the best, but the form in which it is presented does not strike and keep hearers awake. The fault is not always the preacher's. The fault lay chiefly in his training. He was taught, at least indirectly, that he must repress his individuality, and do every thing just "so." He is not himself. He is one of a large number of excellent young men who were all run in the same collegiate mould some years ago. He is not working as nature intended he should work, and, perhaps, mainly for this reason, he is not an effective workman. Perhaps he is afraid that if he worked as the Creator made him, some of his hearers might be shocked. So he prefers the criticism of sleep to the criticism of people who cannot endure to see anything done except in the way they have been accustomed to, and prosed on.