

Church and Parsonage Architecture.

ABOUT PARSONAGES.

WHAT kind of a house does your minister live in? Perhaps, Mr. Circuit Steward, no one ever asked you the question before, and it is quite possible you never asked it yourself. Well, "better late than never." We have started the question for you, and if there is "room for improvement" in the matter referred to, perhaps some good results may follow.

Truth compels us to say that not a few of the structures called, by way of courtesy, "parsonages," are simply disgraceful. Inconvenient, shapeless, *paintless*,—constructed of the poorest materials and in the cheapest (?) way, they are suggestive of discomfort at first sight. It must be a source of great consolation to many ministers to have the prospect of a "mansion" *above*, in view of the kind of places they are often compelled to live in *here*. The difference is easily accounted for: there are no stingy stewards in heaven.

At this point we "rise to explain" that we do not plead for costly, ornate structures for ministers' residences. We want comfort, not splendor; convenience, not show. At the same time there is no reason why a house should be as plain as a pike-staff merely because a minister is to live in it. The last ten years have witnessed great improvements in this respect, and some of our circuits have parsonages that are a credit not only to the "Connexion," but still more to the generous hearts that built and planned them. We hope the era of improvement will continue. On a certain occasion old King George heard some of his officers declare that Napoleon (just then winning some of his most brilliant victories) was mad. "Mad! mad! mad!" cried the King, in his abrupt way, "I wish he would bite some of my generals!" We have heard some of our generous churches accused of "worldliness" and "extravagance" when they have provided a comfortable home for their minister: we only wish that they would bite some other churches that we wot of.

There are several preliminary steps about the building of a parsonage that are worthy of consideration. A certain writer gives a