

But lo! here a 'Light Brigade'
Sustains a whole year's raid
On their small stipends made,
Till lives *not even a shade*
Of their six hundred.

—*Congregationalist.*

A PUZZLING QUESTION.—A letter from New York, in the *Christian Era*, has this paragraph: "Let me mention a little incident, which happened, a while ago, at the examination of a young candidate for a settlement, in a Dutch Reformed church, of this State. After the chief points of doctrine had been gone over, and very satisfactorily, the following question was put to the youthful graduate from Rutgers: "Suppose an adult person should ask you to immerse him, what would you do?" The young preacher paused a moment as if to rally his powers to meet so tremendous a question, and archly replied, "Well, I should take into consideration the state of my health and the state of the weather." The reply brought down the grave body into a laugh, when a friend came to the rescue, by remarking that he thought it too bad to bother a young man with a question which older heads would find difficult to answer!"

VALUE OF A CHURCH MANUAL.—A correspondent of the *New York Independent*, writing from Chicago, says:

"When Jeremiah Porter was about to organize his twenty-four Congregationalists here at Fort Dearborn into a church, looking about for some form, he found that the twenty fifth person, Philo Carpenter, had brought with him the manual of Dr. Beman's church, at Troy, New York, and so, by it, for twenty years following, the vast Congregational material coming in here was made over into Presbyterianism, constituting the social power of power of the 1st, 2d and 3d Presbyterian churches."

JAY COOKE, ESQ., AND THE PREACHERS.—We find the following note, signed by ministers of different denominations, and dated Put-in-Bay, Lake Erie, August 1, going the rounds of the Western press:—Many blessings on Jay Cooke, Esq., for this place of rest for weary ministers. This island contains about five acres of land. The bay derived its name from the fact that Commodore Perry put in here for anchor and the burial of his dead, after the famous battle of Lake Erie, which he fought successfully against the British, Sept. 10, 1813. This island Mr. Cooke purchased, and called it Gibraltar, and has erected upon the centre of it a fine stone mansion, at which, during the hot weather, he entertains for a brief season, and in succession, many of the Christian ministers of various evangelical denominations, and especially such as, from the smallness of their salaries, are unable to afford such rest and recreation for themselves.

Very few men have so green and sprightly an old age as Dr. John Todd, of Pittsfield, Mass. His sermons and newspaper articles have a seasonableness and power that even the ablest of the younger clergy cannot surpass. His case is a refutation of the statement that modern congregations will not tolerate grey hairs in the pulpit. They will tolerate pertinency and piety in an old as well as a young head.

We find the following remark credited to a Unitarian minister in Middlesex County: 'It is doubtful whether, with our modern tendencies, God can send upon society a greater combination of curses than a very eloquent preacher, a ten thousand dollar organ, and a superb opera choir.'

It is a just saying of an old writer, that men, like books, begin and end with blank leaves—infancy and senility.