

any of the secrets of this privileged intercourse. And why is not the same law of honor binding upon the physician?

And the same also upon the clergyman. His position and office in the sick-room and by the bed of death are confidential, often, and always of a privileged character. It becomes him to be exceedingly discreet. Delicate matters of a personal and family nature are frequently confided to him; secrets, confessions, statements are made to him, which ought not to be divulged publicly, or told to those who have no claims to know them. A world of mischief is done by "confidential" disclosures on the part of clergymen. Let them scrupulously honor the trust reposed in them as a minister of Christ and a spiritual adviser.

#### Talking Down to the People.

"SAM" JONES and "Sam" Small are not uneducated men, as generally supposed. Mr. Small was for a long while before his conversion a newspaper writer of some fame. Both talk *down* to the people. We asked Mr. Jones some time since why he indulged in common, slangy talk in the pulpit. Said he, "I do it to reach the people. I talk to be understood. A preacher must be understood easily if he is to do good. He must use the language his auditors think in. The other evening I was talking to a great congregation. I said, 'It is objected that I talk slang. Well, now when I begin to talk slang here, just remember that I am trying to get down on your level.'"

There are some pretty large grains of common sense in that.

#### Was It Kind?

In the absence of any authorized manual of ministerial etiquette, I must fall back upon *THE HOMILETIC REVIEW* for a ruling. Given the following circumstances, what, in your opinion, should have been the conduct of the pastor? Is it not possible for a clergyman to be "too civil by half"?

The circumstances were these: A rousing missionary service in a leading metropolitan

church was about over. Two celebrated speakers from abroad, together with the pastor, occupied the pulpit. The last hymn was being sung when one of the speakers informed the pastor that the Rev. Dr. — of — church was present. Now the pastor is exceedingly near-sighted; nevertheless, with necessarily very meager information as to the whereabouts of the Rev. Dr. —, and handicapped by impaired vision, he left the pulpit, hastened down the aisle and began a vain search for the reverend victim. It is needless to say that the congregation was first curious, then amused, and finally smiled expansively as the pastor gave up in despair and turned toward the informer in the pulpit for help. The informer descended into the aisle, and the two renewed the search. Finally, just as the choir was beginning to sing the last stanza, the victim was discovered. A parley followed, then capitulation, and the two clergymen going up one aisle and the victim up the other, the pulpit was reached just in time for the pastor to announce that the Rev. Dr. — would pronounce the benediction, which he did, although I venture to assert that he mentally excepted the two clergymen who had brought him into such uncalculated-for publicity. To me it seems that this is a good illustration of the lack of consideration which clergymen at times show for one another. When in the pulpit they seem to forget what a positive delight it is for a minister to now and then settle back in a pew and feel his non-responsibility for any portion of the service. What do you think about it?

M.

N. Y. CITY.

We agree in the opinion that much of the "snap" enlisting of clergymen in worship is far from being courteous or in accord with the Golden Rule. Undoubtedly the case cited by M. is rather extreme, and yet something of that kind is likely to happen again and again.

#### Content to be a Pastor.

ONE of the most famous clergymen in the East said but a few days since: "I have a growing disinclination to appear before the public at mass meetings and on other public occasions. The older I grow the more content I am to be a pastor, to drop out of the eye of the general public."

It is perhaps well that this is true of the great majority of preachers, but it would be a sad day for the church and for the world were it true of all.

A CLERICAL BULL.—"Now a few words before I begin."

THERE is great appearance in certain quarters of driving the saloon out of politics, but a solicitous care equally great to leave the politics in the saloon. Down with the rookeries; that is the only sure way of getting rid of the rooks.