

that not much over half the seating capacity of the city churches is generally needed. The working classes, outside of the Irish, and a few Germans, do not usually attend church; and there are a great many educated Americans who invariably stay at home on Sunday.

A MINISTER'S LIFE AN ARDUOUS ONE.

It is a common fallacy, born and of malice and indorsed by the unworthiness of a few, that the preacher leads an idle life. On the contrary, there is no life so arduous as that of the conscientious minister. There are certain duties in which others are more severely exercised than he. The physician has to suffer frequent interruption of his hours of sleep, and the mechanic has to undergo a weariness of the muscles to which the minister is a stranger. But there is no calling which so constantly demands so large an attention of the profounder faculties and therefore such an incessant strain upon the *nervous energies* of a man as that which seeks the souls of men and ministers to them the deep things of God. * * * He must have a good physical organization to endure it. He must be able to bear frequent and copious draughts upon his nerve power, for his preaching involves not only the labor of preparation but sympathy, solicitude and searching emphasis in delivery, as well as the personal ministry that forms the groundwork of his public appeals and instruction. He is to be touched daily by the sorrows of his people and feel for their spiritual wants a parent's care, while in the retirement of his study he is to spare no pains to

furnish his mind for the important function of teaching, which is peculiarly his. Such a work, bringing into constant exercise the inmost elements and faculties of his being, requires a physical frame sufficient to endure the enormous nervous strain. * * * It may be urged against this position that ministers are distinguished for longevity, and that life assurance companies act accordingly. The answer is, that preachers generally die young or very old. A large number fill early graves, and others live, but only with broken health. They entered upon the laborious life with a slender physical constitution and have soon succumbed to its severe conditions. The longevity of the ministry when examined is the longevity of those members of the ministry who do not die young. That is, if a minister has physical constitution enough to bear the draughts upon it, he will probably live longer than the majority.—*Dr. Howard Crosby.*

FATHER CURCI, of Naples, who was condemned as heretical by Pius IX. and reinstated by the present Pope, in the Introduction to his new translation of the New Testament, justifies his undertaking in these plain words: "The New Testament is the Book of all others least studied and least read among us. So much so that the bulk of the Laity—even of those who believe they have been instructed, and profess religion—is not aware that such a book exists in the world; and the greater part of the Clergy themselves scarcely know more of it than what they are compelled to read in the Breviary and Missal."