

smile at the frequency with which their ideas coincided, and they discovered that they had been planning an identical arrangement for some new picture, or other little article. And then the Dominic's wife had the gift of raising plants. Everything would grow for her, and she understood how to arrange them to show to the best advantage.

If the people had only thought a moment they would have seen that the elegance in their minister's home was of a kind that money does not buy; that it was simply good taste using very plain materials. The parlor carpet was new, but the furniture was an heirloom, good of its kind when new, but in use for many a year before it came into the Dominic's house. Two large photographs of THORWALDSEN'S "Night" and "Morning" were the principal adornments of the room, and these were gifts.

The sitting-room had a tapestry carpet on the floor, but it had been in use eight or nine years. The furniture was of the plainest, and the pictures were cheap, but in their grouping effective as an adornment. And here I am tempted to another side remark, viz., that more depends on the proper grouping of pictures in adorning a room, than many persons imagine. But I don't know how I can impart the secret—supposing that I have it.

The Dominic and his wife had it though, and that made their simple photographs and engravings very effective, albeit these, though simple, were good.

And then the plants! All the winter through, the windows were full of leafage and bloom, and the German ivy made bower of beauty of the Chimney recess. So the Dominic's home appeared elegant, and the Dominic and his wife rejoiced that with such plain material they could make so pleasant and attractive a home for themselves. And yet it was all the exercise of a little taste, and there is no reason in the world why any one should not in that way secure elegance too.

OAK.

THREE HUNDRED CHRISTIANS OVERBOARD.

At a recent meeting of the Brooklyn Presbytery the somewhat startling state-

ment was made by the pastor of one of the best churches in the city, that the membership of his church had "increased" from six hundred and fifty to three hundred and fifty. He explained this marvellous "increase" by stating that the roll had recently been revised, and that the result had been the retention on the regular list of only the three hundred and fifty who on diligent search, could be found.

What has become of the three hundred? Have they gone to heaven, or are they still bearing their burdens among the ranks of the Church Militant? If on earth, do they go to church, and if so to what church? Are their church homes in Brooklyn, or in Omaha, or among the Patagonians? Do they remain Presbyterians, or have they become Baptists, Methodists, Mormons or Shaking quakers? How did they get away, and how did it come to pass that so many went, and through what oversight did it happen that they slipped overboard without anybody knowing about it at the time? Exactly how long this leakage has been going on is not reported. To get at the correct statistics of it would be as difficult as to discover the whereabouts of the missing three hundred. Justice to the pastor who made the statement requires the explanation that the leakage did not take place under his administration. Having recently become the shepherd of the flock, he diligently entered upon the business of looking up his sheep; but in his researches obtained the unsatisfying information that three hundred of them were as far astray as any of the lost tribes of Israel. To set the missing ones aside on a sort of a retired list is easy work. But that does not settle the question as to what has become of them, or why they went away. The retired list represents no "reserved corps" which can be called into service in case of emergency. It is, indeed, more of a "reserved corpse" of the unburied and unknown dead, laid aside for funeral when the remains can be found.

When these now missing three hundred originally joined the Church, public recognition of their admission was made, probably with thanksgiving to God for