

groundlessly. Our Protestant churches may well learn from their Roman Catholic neighbors a lesson in this particular. We do not yet adequately appreciate, as do they, how completely the religion of Jesus Christ abolishes such distinc-

tions as we have allowed to enter, and in some measure, to control our management of ecclesiastical things. Whatever their pastors and some of their members may do, let not our churches take vacations hereafter.

BLUE MONDAY.

The Best Parishioner.

WHEN I first took charge of my present congregation, more than twenty years ago, one of my best parishioners said to me, "Now I am president of a bank, and of two coal companies, director of a railroad, a member of our school board, etc. These have frequent meetings, but, unless there be something *very* urgent, you may expect me at every church meeting, *week-day* as well as Sunday."

From that day none has been more faithful and ready to take part in every service than he.

He then paid one-fourth of the salary, more than one-fourth of the benevolence, and made up the deficits at the close of the year, if there were any. At the close of one year, as his pastor was starting to synod, he handed him \$50 for missionary purposes, saying, "I want to give this extra to the Lord this year, for saving the life of my son George," who had been very seriously hurt by an accident in which two other young men lost their lives. Instead of curtailing his gifts to the Lord on account of extra doctor bills, he increased them because of the Great Physician's goodness. He was then in good circumstances financially. He afterward became embarrassed. He had given his note to Wittenberg College for \$5000, on which he was annually paying \$400 interest. He said to me, one day, "I have just paid the interest on my college endowment note, and left my taxes delinquent."

He is a man of very fine mind, of much more than ordinary intelligence, and has but few equals among the laity as a theologian.

We never speak in his presence that we do not feel there is, at least, one in the audience that knows more than we do.

He is the best listener we ever knew—never takes eyes off the speaker. Knows every word you have said when you get through. The best critic we ever had. Modest, unobtrusive and kind with all. After falling in business, and not able to *pay* to church as formerly, he resolved to do more of its spiritual work. He has kept his promise. Although over "threescore years and ten," he is still a zealous worker in church and Sabbath-school.

When absent from a church service, he seldom fails to either send his excuse to the pastor, or give it himself the first time he sees him.

Does all he can to encourage pastor and people, by praising their virtues and apologizing for their failings,

G. W. H.

A New Way to Tie Old Knots.

THERE was to be a wedding fine,
A little out of the usual line.

Two sisters fair resolved to mate,
And enter wedlock's holy state.

A double knot was to be tied;
Such was the choice of the elder bride.

Now each had chosen a different man,
According to the ancient plan,

And each had joined a different church,
While for the true way each did search.

The Presbyterians baptized one;
The other's praises, Methodists sung:

And each elected, as was right,
That her own shepherd should unite

Her heart and hand and all her life
To him who longed to call her wife.

'Twas so arranged, the feast was spread,
And to the altar both were led.

The Presbyterian did his part,
And filled with joy the bridegroom's heart.

The Methodist was still quite young;
His ministry had but begun,

And ne'er before had he been asked
To take a part in such a task.

The words he so desired to say
Took themselves wings and flew away.

His tongue grew dry, his knees did quake,
The awful silence none did break.

At last, with forehead beaded o'er
With sweat, that oozed from every pore,

He said in accents of dismay,
"Give heed, my friends, to what I say.

"I'm very sure you all must own,
That 'tis not well to live alone.

"This youthful pair desire to prove
That life is nothing without love.

"All who consent that they should try,
May make it known by saying 'aye;'

"And what is joined by human band
Must not be loosed by God's command.

"You now, my friends, are man and wife,
I wish you both a happy life."

MARION E. DEALL.