

CURRENT TOPICS AND EVENTS.

THE NEW PREACHER.

Before these lines reach our readers the new preacher shall have reached his station in most places where changes have been made. Receive him gladly, for he is the minister of God to thee for God. Let him have a warm welcome to his new field of labour and to your hearts and homes. He comes among you probably a stranger, and, perhaps, with a greater sense of strangeness in that he has just left a congregation or circuit of tried and true friends. In order that the incidental disadvantages of the itinerancy—which, however, are far more than counterbalanced by its advantages—may be overcome, it is important that no time should be lost on a change of circuit, in making the minister feel perfectly at home in his new relations. And this may very quickly be done. With our system of circuit officials, our class-meetings and list of members, it will be largely a minister's own fault if in a few weeks he has not a pretty extensive acquaintance with his new flock.

Still, the membership may do much, from the very beginning, to make his ministry a success. Even if the new minister be not just the man they expected or desired, they should not hold aloof on that account. He will, for that very reason, be much more sensitive to neglect, and much more appreciative of kindness. Above all, they should put away a coldly critical and censorious spirit. Do not unkindly compare him to "that blessed man," his predecessor. His manner and method may be different, and yet just as good. If his preaching helps you, tell him so. If he be a man of sense, it will not spoil him, but will greatly encourage him. Help him all you can. Above all, pray much for him, that God may own and bless his labours, and you may ex-

pect that his pastorate shall be one of great usefulness and success.

But even more than the minister should his wife receive the cordial sympathy of the people on the new circuit. Her life is more domestic than his. Her personal friendships are stronger. Her sensitiveness among strangers is more keen. Let the circuit steward, or, better still, the ladies of the Church, see that the parsonage is ready for her reception. Let her have help in the toilsome work of unpacking and getting settled—we have known preachers' wives to have all this to do alone. And when she is settled, let them call on her at once, and make her feel that she is among those who esteem her very highly in love for her work's sake. It will *do much to relieve the heart-ache* she must often feel at parting from endeared friends, and will re-knit the severed strands of her life in new friendships which, when the revolution of the connexional wheel again causes her removal, she will prize as highly as those which she now regrets.

The preacher's children, with the happy facility of childhood and youth, will soon form new acquaintances. Nay, the very novelty of moving and travelling will make this experience quite a holiday event. Do not expect too much from the young folk. They are only human—very human—after all; not any better, and we do not think any worse, than other young folk. If they are not, therefore, paragons of perfection, remember that to err is human—and remember, too, that their errors and faults attract more conspicuous attention than those of most others.

May the year, to preacher and people, be one of great spiritual prosperity and benediction, and may those who go forth, it may be, weeping and bearing precious seed, re-