

with emotion, stammered out his apology—he could not lecture as his mother-in-law had just died. That crowded house, hushed to catch the faint utterance of his opening words, burst into a storm of laughter and applause that seemed to shake the very rafters. The excuse seemed to them but an original, witty prelude to an evening's fun. The stricken man begged, implored, even prayed them to believe him; but that grand assemblage, blind victims to morbid humor, heard him not, and he made his way out into the open air as best he could, leaving them to discover later their cruel mistake. The mother-in-law joke, now a classic, should be stuffed and relegated to some dusty museum shelf for ever.

GOOD RULES TO SECURE POOR PRAYER MEETINGS.

1. Never come unless *perfectly* convenient.
 2. If necessarily detained never send a *substitute*.
 3. Stay away if it is a little *damp*, a little too *cold*, or a little too *warm*.
 4. Don't come *early*, if you can *help* it.
 5. Always take a *back seat*.
 6. Avoid *previous preparation*, trust to the service to warm you up.
 7. Don't trouble yourself to render any help. Let others bear all the burdens.
 8. Grumble if people don't come, but don't ask any one to accompany you.
 9. Cultivate the *critical spirit*, never let mistakes go unnoticed.
 10. If you see a stranger present, *avoid* him or her.
 11. Always *wait* for other members to speak first. Stand on your dignity.
 12. If the meeting has been helpful don't *tell* anybody.
- Protestant Pillar.*

The pastor of the First Congregational Church of St. Louis, Rev. J. G. Merrill, prepared and distributed among his people, some time since, a prayer meeting alphabet, which is worth a wider circulation. It will serve as well for a Sunday-school alphabet. It was as follows:—

Attend regularly. Be on time. Come with prayer. Dare difficulties. Eschew excuses. Free the mind from business. Get a friend to come with you. Help in singing. Increase your faith. Joy in service. Kindle devotion. Let society go. Musicals, also. Operas, too, unless they make you love and attend prayer-meeting more. Pray without ceasing. Quench not the spirit. Redeem the time. Salute all who come. Take front seats. Unite in every prayer. Visit those who can't come. Write to those you can't visit. X cents pay for car-fare to and fro; it will be well spent. Yearn for souls. Zealously strive to win them.—*Pilgrim Father.*

—Lord Salisbury the present Prime Minister of Great Britain, having started to the Mansion House armed with the "final and irrevocable" verdict of the British people, the *Fall Mall Gazette* made a careful computation of the voting at the last election, concluding that, so far as can possibly be ascertained, the actual result of the last election was—Liberals, 1,800,233; Arnellites, 374,763; total 2,174,996. Conservatives, 1,

778,823; Unionist, 450,520; total 2,128,343. Majority for Home Rule, 46,653. The total number electors thus accounted for is just three-quarters of the whole electorate.

—A GOOD REPLY.—In charge of the question box one day this season, at Chautauqua, Rev. J. M. Buckley, D.D., was asked: "Do you think the great pyramid a prophecy of the coming of Christ?" His reply, which was followed by prolonged applause, was:

I answer with the speculation of the man who found a boot on the shores of the Mediterranean marked "J," and concluded that it belonged to Jonah, and was cast off by him in his struggles when he got on the shore.

CREAM EGG.—Boil five or six eggs until they are hard. Make a sauce of a pint of milk, a lump of butter the size of an egg, pepper and salt, and enough corn starch to make it thick as thick cream. Take the shells off the eggs while hot and cut them in two, lengthwise; pour the cream dressing over them, and serve hot. It is nice to place thin slices of buttered toast under the eggs.

SCALLOPED CODFISH WITH CHEESE.—Soak a pound of salted codfish six hours in tepid water, then boil it. When cold pick into flakes with a fork, and season with pepper. Heat a cup of milk to a boil, stir into a table-spoonful of butter rolled in two of prepared flour; mix with the picked fish and pour into a bake dish. Strew grated cheese thickly on top and bake in a quick oven to a delicate brown. It is yet nicer if you add a raw egg to the mixture before cooking it.

Literary Notices.

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF BEE KEEPING: W. F. Clarke, Guelph This is a poetical treatise on Bee Keeping after the manner of Virgil's fourth Georgie, to which our author ambitiously refers in his preface as his latest precursor. A Georgie has been described as "some part of the science of husbandry put into a pleasing dress, and set off with the embellishments of poetry, and our friend has certainly put forth in a pleasing address and poetic form some very useful hints regarding Bee culture, very much in advance of that which obtained in Virgil's day. Here is a piece of advice which may serve some unwary fugitive from a pursuing busy bee:—

"Keep quiet, do not strike a single blow,
And usually the bee away will go,
But, if, like Mary's little lamb so white,
It seems reluctant to go out of sight.

Move quickly into some dense shade near by,
For there a bee will hardly ever fly,
Never attempt to fight an angry bee,
But be content to win by strategy."

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW for October, though a little late in appearing, has its usual amount of first class pulpit matter and religious literature. A paper by Prof. Valentine, of Gettysburg, Pa., on the "New Theology," closes the discussion on that subject. Prof. Cuthbertson gives an article entitled "A Physiological View of Faith Cures." There is a good deal of sense in his views. The departments of "Homiletics,"