

with his subject. That was a phenomenal folly; but it is too common for preachers to grow hot and rhetorical over doubtful things at the expense of their reputation in intelligent congregations. Small criticism is not to be despised; but it may be too emphatic, or altogether out of place, or be made to carry too much weight, or be so employed as to show more ignorance than erudition.

#### Death of Valued Correspondents.

It is fitting that we should note here the death of two estimable ministerial brethren, whose names are familiar to the readers of *THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY*, having aided us by their pens for a considerable period in certain departments of our work. The REV. LEWIS O. THOMPSON, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Henry, Ill., was drowned a few weeks since, with one of his sons, while in bathing. REV. JOHN STANFORD HOLME, D.D., died at Clifton Springs, N. Y., on the 28th August last, after an illness of a year or more.—Mr. Thompson was quite extensively known as the author of two excellent volumes, "The Prayer-Meeting and Its Improvement," and "How to Conduct the Prayer-Meeting." He was a spiritually-minded man, and an earnest preacher and Christian worker; and his loss, in the prime of his years, is no slight loss to the Church of Christ. Dr. Holme was long a prominent pastor in the Baptist denomination, in Watertown, N. Y., Pierrepont Street, Brooklyn, and Trinity Baptist of New York city, which he organized and was pastor of for fourteen years. Something more than a year

since he resigned his charge on account of declining health and went abroad, but recently returned only to die. As a man, a preacher and pastor, he was greatly beloved. Genial, warm-hearted, and with high literary attainments, he was a marked man, and will be greatly missed in the wide circle of friends and Christian workers in which he has so long moved and filled a conspicuous position.

#### The Personal Character of the Preacher.

We quote the following from a letter written to us by the editor of *Harper's Weekly*, himself one of the most famous, and rightly so, of American orators:

"One thing is plain, that with the decline of sacerdotal authority the influence of preaching must depend more and more upon the personal character and ability of the preacher.

"GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

"New York."

#### Please Note the following.

The numbers of the *HOMILETIC MONTHLY* for October, November and December, 1884, will be included in Vol. VIII., and be numbered consecutively. The Index for the Volume will be given in the December number; it will be sent free on application in December to any subscriber whose subscription expires before that date. The year will begin hereafter with the January number.

All communications addressed to us, otherwise than on business, which the writers desire shall not be made public, should be marked *confidential*.

#### QUERIES AND ANSWERS.\*

"Q. R."—What is the proper position of the bride during the marriage ceremony? A.: Custom places her on the left side of the groom.

"Q. R."—How would you pronounce celibacy? I find that authorities differ. A.: We prefer celibacy, the pronunciation of all authorities save Webster, who prefers *celib'acy*.

"S. J."—Can you name a standard work on China and the Chinese adapted to one contemplating missionary work among them? A.: W. Wells Williams' "Middle Kingdom" is an excellent work.

"J. R. C."—Can you name a good work on bible characters? A.: In addition to those named in *THE HOMI-*

\* Books noticed or mentioned in *THE HOMILETIC MONTHLY* will be sent on receipt of the price.