

gallery we saw Mr. Gladstone, seated in the royal box, following *Israel in Egypt* with an octavo score in his hand. "I must tell the Italians of that when I get home," said Roberti. "In Italy no public man would be seen with a piece of music in his hand. It would be considered *infra dig.*"—*Christian World*.

AN EXAMPLE, WHICH IS ALSO A SUGGESTION.—An exchange says: "Dr. Gunsaulus is the minister of an 'upper-class' Congregational church in Chicago, but he has been seized with an admirable discontent with that comfortable position. The churches, thought he, exist to spread Christianity among the people. If custom or prejudice stands in the way of this mission, custom and prejudice must be swept out of the way. The masses of the population, if they went anywhere on Sunday, went to the theatres. So Dr. Gunsaulus persuaded his congregation to get along with one service, in the morning, and to send him and his choir down town for the evening. His people not only consented, but leased a music hall and put in it a magnificent organ. These services have become so wonderfully successful that, although the music hall seats 3,000, it is already too small."

THE CENSUS RETURNS.—The population has been increasing much more slowly during the past ten years than in the preceding decade. That is the most important fact brought to light by the full census returns now to hand. The total population of England and Wales on the night of April 5 was 29,001,018, or 703,357 less than the Registrar-General, judging by past results, had expected. Even so, this is an increase of 3,026,572, or 11·65 per cent. on the figures of 1881, quite a sufficient rate of growth. Such decrease as there is is attributed partly to a falling off in the birth rate, and partly to increased emigration. The death rate, on the other hand, has declined. As in every census since 1851, women appear to have increased faster than men, and there are now 106·4 females to every 100 males. The growth of the population has been most marked in the neighborhood of London, and in the manufacturing and mining centres. In the rural districts there has been a widespread decrease. No less than nine of the twelve Welsh counties show a falling off. It will be interesting to see how far the pro-

vision of allotments tends to check the progressive depopulation of the rural districts. There has been a great increase in the towns, and there are now 62 towns in England and Wales, with a population of over 50,000. London has now 4,211,056 inhabitants; Liverpool, with 517,951, is still the second town in England, though it shows a falling off of 6·3 per cent., and is run hard by Manchester with 505,343, and Birmingham with 429,171. In Scotland the chief feature is an increase of 141,000 in Lanarkshire. The Irish returns we have already noticed. The total population of the United Kingdom is now 37,740,283. We are still half a million behind France, where the population is nearly stationary; but Germany boasts of its fifty, and the United States of its sixty-five millions. As to the distribution of the population in the three kingdoms, 72·8 per cent. are to be found in England and Wales, 16·7 per cent. in Scotland, and 12·5 per cent. in Ireland.—*Christian World*.

Editorial Articles.

SHORT PASTORATES.



OUR pastorates are getting shorter. The Methodists, who have for a century had short pastorates by rule, are inclined to make them longer. There must be liberty. Yet a few words on pastorates that are shorter than they should be.

These tend to unsettle a church. Much enthusiasm expended over a new minister and his wife; several new plans of church work just got going; perhaps a good large debt incurred on the strength of these; and lo! the minister has got his eye on another place, and hardly waiting till the church accepts ruefully his "resignation," he has engaged with another people. This discourages a church. The members silently resolve not to be so enthusiastic about the next man; and begin to wonder if all ministers are mercenary? No; but many of them are changeable. We have known ministers who have moved for no good reason whatever, and their people have been grieved over it. When will all men learn the great benefit of holding on,