

## SOME HUMOROUS MEMORIES OF A COUNTRY PARSON.

When I was first ordained, I will not say when or where, I was sent to take charge of a country parish. I went there crammed full of ideas as to how a parish should be worked. I was going to show the "old fogies" a thing or two in the way of parish work.

It was going to be a model parish. I was, at first, billeted at one of the churchwarden's houses. Needless to say how long and interesting—to me at least—were the conversations we had regarding the parish and the people. With the "subtlety of the serpent," and as I have since thought with "the simplicity of the dove," I tried to find out all about my flock. "Had they a choir?" "Oh yes! a very good one too. The young people take a great deal of interest in the choir. The last three clergymen married members of it, and I suppose you will do the same." Here was a quandary for an unfledged parson. Our college course had told us nothing about dealing with cases such as this; the sceptic, the indifferent, the open and notorious sinner, these we had heard something of, but a matrimonially determined choir was a step beyond anything I had heard of. He expected an answer, his eyes were fastened on me. If I could only have said I was determined to be a celibate, that would have settled it; but alas! I was not. I was in fact the reverse. I was determined to be the other kind if a certain young lady would agree. I cudgelled my brains, visions of Blunt and Bishop How flashed through my mind, but in vain. Still he waited for the answer. Ah! I have it; the churchwarden has a daughter, is she in the choir? "There is no saying, Mr. Churchwarden, what may happen if the choir are all like my young lady acquaintance here, Miss Mary." That fixed him, and the choir next Sunday, headed by Miss Mary, beamed upon me most benignly. I didn't stay long in that parish. It was mostly inhabited by young ladies, and the strain was too great. I used to dream of wedding bells and breach of promise suits till I got so thin that the doctor said I needed a change. After I left they got a married man with a grown up family, and I've heard since, but of course it's false, that the choir is not as enthusiastic as of yore.

**ECCLIASTICAL WIT.**—A certain English clergyman would always wear an M. A.'s hood over his surplice. Some of his brethren objected to his doing so, as he was only a B. A. of one of the universities, and had never taken his M. A. degree. One indignant and duly qualified person went and remonstrated with Archbishop Magee, and begged him to interfere in the matter, for, said he, "the man is simply wearing a lie." "Oh—no—not so bad as that," replied the archbishop; "only a falsehood."—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

During a winter visit to Florida, Andrew Carnegie attended a service in a little negro church. When the contributing plate came round Mr. Carnegie dropped a five dollar bill upon it. After the contents of the plate had been counted, the clergyman arose and announced: "Brethren and sisters, the collection this evening seems to figure up six dollars and forty-four cents; and if the five dollar bill contributed by the gentleman from the North is genuine, the repairs on the Sanctuary will begin immediately."—*Argonaut.*

Fifty years ago, 15th May 1897, Daniel O'Connell died at Genoa, Italy, while on his way to Rome.

Mrs. Langtry's daughter, Jean, will make her debut during the present season in London. She is a second edition of her mother, though much taller.

William C. Ussery, M. D., of St. Louis, says that the best food for those suffering from typhoid fever is the banana.

It is reported that the Catholic University at Washington has received a legacy of \$150,000 from the estate of a Mr. O'Brien of New Orleans.

Messrs. Sleeth & Quinlan, of Carleton, have been awarded the contract for the erection of a monumental cross to the memory of the late Father McDevitt. The price is in the vicinity of \$1,000.

Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Gibson, the two widowed sisters of Cambridge, England, who discovered the Biblical manuscript on Mount Sinai, are devout Presbyterians, and have just given to the Presbyterian College located at Bloomsbury, London, the sum of \$250,000 for the purpose of moving the institution to Cambridge.

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## ACKNOWLEDGING INVITATIONS

When a married lady pays a dinner call she leaves one of her own and two of her husband's cards—one of her husband's cards being for the hostess and one for the host. An unmarried lady, however, never leaves a card for nor makes a call on a gentleman, so she simply leaves a card for the hostess. A gentleman receiving an invitation to a dinner, and being unable to accept it because of a previous engagement, would word his answer in this manner: "Mr. Samuel Smith regrets that a previous engagement prevents his acceptance of the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. John Brown to dinner on Thursday evening." Below this should be added the date, and unless the address is already engraved upon the note paper, it should appear just below the date. An acceptance would read: "Mr. Samuel Smith accepts with pleasure the kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. John Brown to dinner on Thursday evening, June 4th, at eight o'clock." In accepting an invitation you should repeat the day and the hour of the affair, so that your host will understand that you are correctly informed.

DANCE CARDS are not generally used in London and New York at very fashionable entertainments, and a gentleman in those cities asks a lady to dance with him thus, "May I have the pleasure of a turn?" In other cities, "May I have the pleasure of a dance with you?" This latter is inevitable because dance cards are used, and the lady asks the gentleman to inscribe his name on her card, he himself also keeping tally on his card. The usual form, "May I have the pleasure of this dance with you?" is quite correct.

The largest sum ever paid a pianist in London will be given Paderewski for one performance in Queen's Hall, London, during the present season. He will receive a thousand guineas. A similar fee has been offered to Mme. Patti to sing songs at a summer concert.

When you dispute with a fool, he is very certain to be similarly employed.