

\$2	(1)	PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE, OR
\$2	(2)	AT THE EXPIRATION OF THE YEAR

50 NOS. IN A VOLUME

### A Puzzling Theological Question

Several years ago, before the age of

Board for Foreign Missions was held at Albany, which Rev. Calvin Chapin, witty Congregational minister, now deceased, with a number of other clergymen from that region attended, performing the journey by stage. At the close of the meeting they returned by the same conveyance. All the passengers were in the stage but one were Congregational clergymen ; that one was a young Episcopal minister. At first starting, the passengers were all silent, till after some time, when the following conversation

some time, our young Episcopal friend, with somewhat more courage than di-

"I have been examining those portions of the Scriptures lately, in which prayer

is spoken of, and have satisfied myself that prayer is never spoken of in the Bible where the circumstances do not

To this somewhat startling position

no one made any reply, but our young friend nothing daunted, went on: "I will defy any of you gentlemen present

There was again a short silence.

which was soon broken by Dr. Chapin, who said in his blandest and most deferential tones :

"I do not mean to deny your position,

"The question I wished to ask was," said Dr. Chapin, very deliberately, "what

It is said that the juvenile divine maintained a dignified silence during the rest of that journey.

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MINISTERIAL QUALIFICATIONS.—The *Methodist Protestant* contains the following admirable and well-timed remarks on the subject of preaching :

"Let no man, then, despise a true minister of Christ, because his gifts of oratory may not be, in the highest degree, brilliant and sensibly effective.—The Head of the Church knows better than we can know, what is necessary for the good of his Church, and will raise up just such men as, improving their natural gifts, shall best observe the interests of the Redeemer's kingdom. A man who neglects plainly to preach the Gospel, and substitutes for it something else, is properly the subject of reproach in his profession; but if he, to the best of his ability, 'warns, exhorts, and teach in all meekness,' though crowds never wait on his ministry, nor the newspaper herald his wonderful success, power over the masses, he may be accomplishing what the day of eternity may reveal as a lasting blessing to the world. The lightning and the thunder startle us, and fill the mind with wonderment while they accomplish their atmospheric

uses ; but we are not to forget, that the almost unperceived and silent process going on every moment around us, are even more beneficial in securing those beneficent results which afford suste-

nance to humanity, and bless the world with its Creator's love."

**HIDDEN STRENGTH.**—One of our exchanges makes the following truthful and important remark : "There is in almost every church a great amount of tal-

ent, which can only be developed and devoted to religious uses by the most searching revivals of religion. Some large and wealthy churches are very weak, because the talents of their members have been rolled up in a napkin and hid in the earth ; while some small and poor churches are very strong, because the talents of all their members are in use, and thereby constantly gaining other talents."

APHORISMS BY DR. ARCHIBALD ALEXAN  
DER.—The object of all knowledge is  
truth.  
The essence of all moral goodness is  
love.  
The spring of spiritual activity is  
faith.  
The foundation of every virtue is hu  
mility.  
The first duty of a sinner is repentance.  
The fountain of all blessings is Jesu  
Christ.  
The source of all grace and peace is  
the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Our own happiness is best promoted by seeking the welfare of others.

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