

**SATURDAY MORNING, SEPT. 21, 1881.**  
The Illinois Central Railroad Company.  
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**Religious Intelligence.**  
From a report of the "Poor Clergy Relief Society" of the Methodist Church in England we learn that the receipts for the past year were four thousand three hundred and eighty dollars, which was divided among one hundred and fourteen clergymen and widows. Beneficial aid was given to 34 clergymen without cases; 23 grants to clergymen with cases; and 34 grants to the widows of clergymen. In the first class we find 12 clergymen, in the second class 21 clergymen, and in the third class 13 clergymen. Thirty-four dollars were spent in the ministry; fifty dollars in the purchase of a house and garden; and twenty dollars in a salary of seventy-two dollars per year, making the sum total of one hundred and twenty-two dollars. This will serve to illustrate the character of the applicants. The committee on receiving applications for relief among a number of others reported: An incumbent incumbent, "May I ask if you have at your disposal a few pair of boots and shoes, and if you will be most valuable to me and my children. There will be no fear about their fitting as my children are so many in number." Another clergyman makes the following statement: "The privation we have undergone and are still enduring would surpass your belief. My only child of clothes is a shambles, and I have no shoes to my feet. I feel deeply humiliated at being obliged to make such a confession. There is before me the prospect of starvation during the dreary months of winter." The report concludes by stating that "the clergy as well their wives make almost daily appeal to this splendid picture of destitution whenever they become disabled through a pension from government, though they can be worth a quarter of a million, or even, in some cases, three million five hundred thousand dollars, and that during the same year in which these cases of distress occurred, the Dean of York, the case and Bishop Villiers, each took two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and there was expended on dress and jewels who have no debt eight hundred thousand dollars. Of the army of high dignitaries, composed of bishops, deans, canons and archdeacons of the Established Church, only one contributed any thing to the relief of their distressed brethren and that contribution consisted of a few shillings. The want of space forbids further enlargement on this subject. The membership of the English Wesleyan Church, according to statistics furnished at the recent session of the Synod, amounts to 319,778—more, 9,640; on total for church membership 25,138; ministers, 1,821.

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