

sciously developed, he never dreamed of the work that was before him. Had anybody suggested such a destiny, he would have shrank back in horror from the undertaking. He was of slow lip and stammering tongue. Here, however, he is cut off from all the world he knew and prized. He begins to learn the tongue of those among whom he is cast, and as he and they come to understand one another he communicates to them in the smallest of morsels what he knows and can express of the Christian religion. After a time, and very slowly, the truth begins to tell. The belief in idols gets shattered ; the practice of idolatry is given up. A different kind of life from what used to be common begins to be lived ; the faintest buddings of a pure Christian life begin to appear, and these are ever more and more manifest. The leaven spreads, and before that shipwrecked sailor ends his days the moral and spiritual wilderness is blossoming as the rose ; the desert has become a fruitful field. Is that community of believers not a Church, a true Church, a Church planted and nourished by God Himself ? The means were very humble. It may be that generations pass away before the boldness is assumed of administering the sacraments ; but whether they are administered or not there are saved souls there, and that is the main thing ; and if, after much thought and amidst much trepidation, some do at length venture to baptize in the name of the Triune God, and to break the bread and pour out the wine, and to hand it to the disciples in the name of Christ, as emblems of His death, who will say that such an observance is less valid in the sight of God than a sacramental observ-