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THE CLERGYMAN IN HIS SOCIAL RELATIONSHIP
AS A GENTLEMAN.

PAPER READ AT THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE
DIOCESAN COLLEGE ASSOCIATION, October 23rd, 1896, by

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The subject of this paper differs widely from those of the papers we have already listened to with so much pleasure and profit. Mr. Pratt and Mr. Cunningham have led us to the very foundation of all ministerial life—spiritual preparation. Every undertaking of the clergyman whether it be public or private in character must be coloured by his devotions. If we are ambassadors it is vital that we should keep ourselves in touch with the court we represent. In like manner Mr. Rexford has carried us from our private chamber to the nursery, the school, and the church where we are called upon to bring the Master's life into the lives of children.

Now I am asked to discuss with you, not the clergyman on his knees or at his desk or in the pulpit, but as a man and a gentleman; as he moves about his parish, and touches society. My subject is therefore, not a question as to whether the clergyman is sound in the faith, eloquent in speech, or scholarly in attainments; it is rather a question of externals, a question of how to win the hearts and sympathy of those we wish to influence with a higher truth.

I. First I would ask what is the true work of the clergyman? Is it not to elevate, to purify, to regenerate society by setting before it the world's Redeemer? We are happy indeed if we can prevail