

## PAROCHIAL ASSOCIATION.

THE meetings of this Association or Guild of Church Workers have been in abeyance during the summer months. It is intended to resume them on the 19th inst., the third Monday in September. By that time almost all of the absent members of S. George's will have returned home, and all Church workers, refreshed by such relaxation as they have been able to secure, will be ready for work again. The object of our Parochial Association is to bind together workers in the various departments, to create and foster a feeling of unity and brotherhood, and to strengthen each others hands in works of faith and labours of love "for Christ and the Church." It hopes to accomplish these objects by means of meetings for devotion and business, and by social reunions. Another special object of this Association is to alter from time to time the *personnel* of the two lists kept by the Rector of the Parish. Every clergyman is obliged to keep two lists, on one of which he notes down every one who is at work in the Parish and upon whom he can count for aid; the other is the list of non-workers. These lists are constantly changing, as indeed must necessarily be the case. Non-workers begin to realize that life's beauty or happiness or dignity does not consist in "standing idle in the market-place," while in the vineyard, close at hand and always open, work is ever ready and workers needed to do it. Rest is very pleasant and we may "rest awhile"; but life is too short and its claims too pressing for holiday-time to last long. There is a place and a time to rest, but not now and not here. Whether we know it or not, we all have a work given us to do, and sooner or later the idlest dreamer awakes to learn that

"Life is real! Life is earnest!  
And the grave is not its goal;  
'Dust thou art, to dust returnest,'  
Was not spoken of the soul.

"Not enjoyment, and not sorrow,  
Is our destined end or way,  
But to act, that each to-morrow  
Find us farther than to-day."

And so the lists change. The non-worker of to-day becomes the earnest worker of to-morrow. And he, who yesterday thought that there was no work for him to do, finds to-day that while there is spiritual work in the Church, for which not every one is fitted, there is a large variety of work, more or less of a secular character, in which every one may find a place. One special object then of the Parochial Association is to make it easier to enter upon work of some kind. It has no exclusive features. The membership is intended to be as wide as possible. A wish to be useful and helpful is the one condition. It says to each: "You have, it may be, but one talent; you no longer wish to wrap it up in a napkin and bury it in the earth. Come in then amongst us, and, if not at once, sooner or later we shall find work that may suit you. Your one talent may in time develop into five talents, or ten." We trust, then, that when notice of the next meeting is given in Church, no one will say within himself, 'that is not intended for me.' It is intended for all who wish to do something, no matter how humble. We shall warmly welcome all who come.