

every member of the Parish. This close and intimate relationship ought to be realized, and when realized, acted upon in a practical manner.

Each Parish should take a pride in the welfare of the Diocese, and do its utmost to conduce to that welfare; and the Diocese must be concerned in the well being of each several Parish.

But, it may be asked "How can a single, small, perhaps poor and isolated Parish, help towards the welfare of the whole?" Surely in many ways. Let me mention only a few:

1. By manifesting a ready sympathy with all that concerns the Diocese. It is astonishing what a power a sympathetic interest, when widely spread, exerts for the furthering of any good work.

2. By making sure that those, who are elected as Delegates to the Diocesan Synod, are men, who will attend and take part in, or, at all events, take an interest in the proceedings of the Synod.

3. By paying the Synod assessment regularly and promptly.

4. By loyally and promptly taking a part in any movement, which may be set on foot, by proper authority in the Diocese, and helping to further it with all good will. Many Parishes hold aloof from large movements, because it is thought that the little help, which they can render, is of no value. We know the folly of this argument, and that the prompt help of the many, doing as they are able with a willing heart, is the greatest power of all in helping forward any movement.

Then there are appeals, which come to us or our Church Wardens from the Bishop or the Synod, or from the Church Society.

These appeals may seem sometimes not to concern the individual Parish at all, or only perhaps very remotely, and are, therefore, not always responded to. But, apart from the question of loyal obedience, surely this is a mistake—even from a selfish point of view. The welfare of each component part is bound up in the welfare of the whole, and that, which tends to the consolidation and strengthening of the Diocese as a whole, must have its reflex effect upon the Parishes.

We will take one instance. It may seem to be a matter of small moment to a Parish, whether or not the Diocese has or has not a good Pension Fund. It may be said, the Parish or Mission will

always have a Clergyman as long as it is able to pay its assessment—and when a parson is past his work he has got to look out for himself, the Parish can't be expected to do that.

But as a matter of fact it is a very important matter for the Parish itself. If the Diocese possesses a good Pension Fund, as, I am very thankful to say, this Diocese does, the Parish Priest is relieved of a vast amount of care and anxiety, and can fulfil the duties of his calling amongst his parishioners with a much lighter heart, and therefore more effectually than he could possibly do, if there was no fund to fall back upon for support in his old age. This is a direct benefit to the Parish.

Then again the possession of a good Pension Fund by the Diocese is beneficial to the Parish in a further and perhaps more important respect.

When a Parish Priest, through age and infirmity, gets beyond his work and feels that the duties of his office can no longer be fully and faithfully discharged, he is able to surrender his charge and retire from active service.

If the Diocese does not possess a good Pension Fund, it often becomes a matter of sheer necessity for the Parish Priest to remain at his post long after he has ceased to be able to fulfil his duties adequately and thoroughly, much to his own distress, as well as to the detriment of the Parish.

Again, take the case of the Mission Fund. It is a matter of vital importance, not only to the whole Diocese, but also to every Parish, whether the Diocesan Mission Fund has the hearty, unflinching and generous support of every Parish in the Diocese, and of every Churchman in the Diocese.

If the Mission Fund is not well supported, it means smaller incomes for the Clergy, and God knows they are small enough as it is. It means smaller stipends, or, at all events, defers the time when they may be increased. It also means larger assessments in the Parishes, and, what is worse still, the necessity of curtailing the work in some parts of the Diocese, and inability to send out men into new ground, when an opportunity of starting a Mission, with good hope of success, presents itself.

I think that we (the Clergy) often fail to use our influence sufficiently in bringing these matters before our people, and in getting them to realize their duty to