

STRUGGLING PARISHES.

The Church of To-day has the following excellent words to say about struggling parishes:

"Many a little parish is struggling to maintain itself in village and town against social influences and prejudices, and minister and people are disheartened. The weakness of the Church is readily explained in such way as to make the outlook well-nigh hopeless. All the influences are said to be against the Church, and all the people are represented as having other religious association and interests.

"But are there not in every community persons and families, particularly among the poor, who have no Church connection, to whom this Church can and ought to minister? There is no town or village where there are not scores of poor and neglected people who can be won by kindness. It would be the greatest gain if the clergy and people in our small parishes would give up thought concerning persons of means and social position as alone desirable acquisitions to the Church, and go after those who have no such recommendation to a modern parish.

"The thought of clergy and people has been confined too much to those who could pay for a good pew and people of influence. In this country, the children of the poor of this generation are very likely to be rich in the next. But whether there is such prospect or not, the Master's mission to the neglected is ours, and there is a ministry to precious souls in every community."

All this is very true. How many times have we heard the expressions, "Some of the best people in town were in Church this morning." "If we only had a rector who could get hold of the best people?" Nay, we have known of a parish of the kind where the people actually murmured because the rector interested himself in the most degraded people in the town; people who were positively outcasts from all the churches for a reason which they could not help, and which came to them by nature.

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