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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—THE PARISH MINISTER KNIGHT-ERRANT.

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(Concluded from page 221.)

GREAT words and even gravely true, I think, are these of Thomas Carlyle, concerning Louis XV. : “And yet let no meanest man lay flattering unction to his soul. Louis was a ruler; but art not thou also one? His wide France, looked at from the fixed stars—themselves not yet infinitude—is no wider than thy narrow brickfield, where thou, too, didst faithfully or didst unfaithfully mean symbols of eternity imprisoned into time. It is not thy works which are all mortal, infinitely little, and the greatest no greater than the least, but only the spirit thou workest in, that can have worth or continuance.”

And the test of ministerial faithfulness or faithlessness is whole heavens higher than the fixed stars even. “Moreover, it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful,” says the great apostle, “but with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you or of man’s judgment. Yea, I judge not mine own self, for I know nothing by myself. Yet am I not hereby justified; *but He that judgeth me is the Lord.*” The test is not conspicuous place. The test is, shining motive toward God compelling scrupulous service toward men anywhere, everywhere. Judged thus your little and lowly Eversley may be lordlier and loftier than the biggest pulpit London can make offer of.

Looking further at this sphere of this parish minister knight-errant, is there not suggestion also as to the *true winning of ministerial reputation*. Our Lord did not find fault with the desire of the sons of Zebedee, to sit the one on His right hand and the other on His left, but only with their proposed method of promotion. “The best work ever I’ve done has been my plain parish work,” wrote Charles Kingsley to Mr. Thomas Hughes, when fame had already laid various garlands upon his brow. But the structural reason for that fame was plain parish work, well done. This was the trunk of the tree on which banners of other leaves unfurled themselves. Poet he was, and author with wide audience, and militant reformer with clarion call. But first, foremost, chiefest, he was parish minister. These things were fringe, parish duty was the center and the main substance. The in-