

against the deadly effects of despair in those who are conscious of great or frequent failures.

In these remarks we have made but a slight contribution to the great subject of missions. But we must remember that these efforts are and can be only occasional, and that, however useful, they are not the ordinary means by which the work of the Church has to be done, or the people brought into our congregations and kept there as reverent, earnest, hearty worshippers. And therefore it becomes necessary to say something in reference to the ordinary working of a parish.

Before speaking on this subject, however, we should remark that in large parishes it has been found useful to carry on these free services in mission chapels on Sundays as well as week days, by which means many of the more ignorant have been prepared for taking part in the regular services of the Church.

Coming to the ordinary work of the parish, we need say little on the great subject of preaching, as that has already been discussed. I will therefore simply content myself with remarking that no Church work will ever prosper where a secondary place is assigned to this great instrument for good.

With regard to the visiting of the working classes in our parishes, it will probably be acknowledged that a great deal of it is done in a very aimless and indifferent manner, both in England and in Canada, and that it produces very slight visible results. We hear continually of parishes being diligently visited, and yet we see very few of the poor within the walls of our churches. There are, of course, many ways of accounting for this want of results; but one of them is the want of definiteness in our own minds as to the end and object of our visiting. As representatives of the Church of Christ—as ministers of the Saviour of mankind, whether clergymen or laymen—we do not go to see people merely to say a few kind words to them, or to leave a tract, or to administer a little temporary relief, or to comfort them in their sorrows; we go to them as messengers from Jesus Christ and from God the Father. We go to them because they have need to know of the salvation which the grace and mercy of God has provided for them, and therefore we ought to make them feel that we shall never be satisfied that we have done for them the work we are bound to do until we have brought them first to listen to the preaching of the Gospel of Christ, then to believe it, then to accept the salvation which it offers them, then to confess Christ by coming to His table, and so outwardly and inwardly live a life of holy uniformity to the will of the Father, in imitating the living example of the Incarnate Son, by the power of the Holy Ghost.

There is much which remains to be said on the various topics which are inseparably connected with our subject; but there is only one on which we must touch for a moment before dismissing the question before us. I refer to the public worship of the Church. And although I have protested against what are called "attractive services," yet it would be impossible to exaggerate the importance of public worship as a means of education, and as a means of binding together the members of congregations into one living body, so as to be, at least in some degree, a representative of that Mystical Body of the Lord, of which we are all members.