

Nearly the same remarks apply to the Holy Communion. In this and other inexcusable neglect is it realised that in many hundreds, and perhaps even thousands, of parishes, there is church, rector, or vicar, clerk, furniture, everything that is necessary, and yet the one only special office commanded by the Redeemer, and possessing a formula of words from His own blessed lips, is not used more than perhaps once every month, and in some parishes not so often? Does it seem wonderful if men and women have ceased from that attachment to the Church which there ought to be in every nook and corner, as well as in every town and village, in Great Britain? Is it very astounding that the nation has drifted away from Holy Communion into an assembly once or twice on Sunday for prayers and sermon? But then, as this is the source of weakness, it is most encouraging to feel that here, too, lie the strength and the remedy. They are at hand, and they can be put in operation without delay, or the hindrance of even a lack of money. The spiritual life of the people must be developed and deepened. The enfranchised, with their parliamentary vote, must be helped to enjoy a far deeper, holier, and enduring privilege as citizens of heaven. Spiritual life, spiritual devotedness, is what is mostly needed, is nearly all that is needed. The clergy of the Church have just now an untold spiritual force at their disposal, and if, without much care about things secular or political, they will thoroughly devote themselves to deepening, and extending the spiritual life of each one of their parishioners, they will be doing a mighty work, the results of which will be most salutary in this life, and most unspeakably blessed also for the life to come.

But this cannot be looked for without frequent Communion and more frequent gatherings in the House of God than are the rule in many churches now. Of course the mere form of daily services and frequent Communion can amount to nothing more than formalism, and even self-righteousness. Formalism and self-righteousness can exist, and do exist, in every phase of Christianity. But experience also proves that spiritual life and spiritual devotedness are hardly possible with churches nearly always closed; without some week-day services; and without a celebration of Holy Communion on every Lord's Day.

These words are written full of hope, and not without deep gratitude and encouragement, at the persuasion that a mighty work is within the compass of the Church even as she is. Let every church building be well worked. Let the churches be made, and be felt to be, available day by day. Amidst all let the clergy, remembering the declarations which they made before they were ordained, and the exhortations given them, and the promises declared by them, make it the grand object of life to promote spiritual life and devotedness amongst their parishioners, whether they be few or many. Some clergymen carefully go through the Ordination Service on every anniversary of their ordination, to the profit, it is believed, of themselves and their people. It is a question not now for discussion, but it is a very important question, whether in their well-meant object of winning all sorts of people, by joining with them in many amusements and games, the spiritual work has not suffered far more than it has been advanced. But here it must be added that the people at large make a great and even severe distinction between clergymen uniting with the young men of their parishes in a manly game of cricket, and the very different, however agreeable, amusement which absorbs many afternoons, and many evenings also, in the lawn-tennis party. At all events facts stare the Church in the face, and boldly proclaim that great changes are at hand. Let not the Church be afraid of anything except of doing wrong, or doing nothing. Let there be no sort of abandonment of any truth or of compromise of any principle. Let there be adaptation

wherever needful, and a loving endeavour to meet the wants and even the fancies of men. But the strength of the Church of God is in the still, small voice of God, by which His Church is led, calmly and confidently in Him, to live a life of activity and faith. The future strength and safety of the Church will soon entirely depend upon [what the clergy exist to promote and to manifest in their own lives, viz.], 'Spiritual Life and Devotedness.' G. V.

TALITHA CUMI.

From a sermon in *Church Work*, by the Rev. Floyd W. Tomkins, Jr.:—

Young girlhood amongst the working classes—and may we not fear, under varied manifestations, amongst all classes?—young girlhood, to-day, is open to the gravest dangers, and in a few cases have the dangers failed to harm. The decade has been a fitting one for the inception of this Society. I do not wish to make mere statements when so much positive truth awaits us; but have you, have we, sufficiently considered the situation? A girl is her own mistress at ten. No home influence is wise enough, no home training is stern enough to control; and the will, wayward in the best, is greatly wandering in the worst, and leads too often to trouble and sorrow. Have you studied this matter in our streets at night?—not the streets of this city only, but, as experience has assured me, the no less suggestive streets of our smaller towns and villages. Have you seen the little children without guardians, playing, walking, at an hour when they should be asleep? Have you noted the older girls, heard their conversation, seen their companions, and started at the shrill, ungirlish, because unnatural, laughter? The factories, the stores, the tenement houses, with their enforced associations, are the cause—all the product of this age, when money is gained too often by the wanton sacrifice of souls! Yet these daughters are not absolutely bad. In most cases their parents in response to your question, would assure you of their good characters, and honestly believe it to be as they assert. But you know how the vital nerve of true girlhood has been wounded, and the simple sweetness of youth taken away. No great moral offence may come. The girl may grow to womanhood, and live and die, as the world says, honorably. But the first life has gone. The gentle impulses, the susceptibility to good, these are broken; and while we wonder at the irreligious, cold adult nature, God sees a nature which died to the higher living years ago.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We have received the Journal of the 102nd Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Diocese of New Jersey, U.S., of which the Right Rev. Dr. Scarborough is Bishop. In referring to his Episcopal acts, the Bishop notes one of exceptional interest and occurrence, viz., the presentation by Rev. Dr. Hills of a son for the Diaconate, whilst another son, a Priest of the same diocese, preached the Ordination Sermon. In regard to which the Bishop beautifully and truly remarks:—"Such a scene is rarely witnessed, and such happiness as that day filled the heart of the Rector of St. Mary's is not often vouchsafed to mortals. When in the ordering of God's good Providence he shall lay his burden down, younger hands will take it up and stronger shoulders carry it, and when his lips are sealed and silent the message which he delivered to men will be continued. Surely the gift of two sons from one parsonage to serve before the Altar of God

ought to put to silence the old-time saying about clergymen's sons!"

BISHOP SCARBOROUGH is dubious as to the real success of the "Missions" lately held; and prefers to wait and watch further the drift and tendency of the movement before endorsing it with unqualified praise. He gives this wise and needed advice:—"I advise the Clergy to caution in setting aside the Prayer Book for any other forms of devotion or for no forms at all. . . . There is a spirit of restlessness, in the Church and out of it, which is dissatisfied always with the *present* and sees something better beyond. Let us learn not to disparage or despise the present with its opportunities and blessings. Neither let us condemn and exclude with inflexible stubbornness everything that is now; even the Church must learn to change and adapt her methods of working to the age. My only plea is for a wise conservatism that will not take the risk of working harm, even while acting from the purest motive and the best intent. If the boat that carried Caesar could not sink, the ship that carries Christ will safely ride the storms. Her pilots may be unskilled and careless, but an unseen Hand will keep her off the rocks and quicksands, and bring her safely to the haven."

THE feeling against Mr. Gladstone, in consequence of his proposed Home Rule scheme seems to be very bitter, and in some quarters doubts are entertained as to his sanity. In many particulars the scheme was indeed senseless in the extreme; but we hardly expected to find such outspoken condemnation as the following from the *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette*:

"Is Mr. Gladstone mad? This is a question which may be reasonably entertained. It is to say the least of it, a remarkable fact that more than one competent judge of human character has pronounced an opinion on the subject, and declared that the acts of Mr. Gladstone were those of a madman. Lord Palmerston's prophecy that Mr. Gladstone would live to destroy his country and die in a madhouse is well known, and lately we have had Mr. Spurgeon's written assertion that only a madman could have promoted the late Disruption Bill."

THE interest in the Colonial and Indian Exhibition, and the attention paid on all hands to the Colonial visitors, seem unabated. During the week ending 10th July, the number of visitors to the Exhibition was 167,480; total since the opening, 1,050,448. The Queen too has made several visits to the "Great Show," and has been particularly gracious and attentive to her Colonial subjects. There can be no doubt that the various outlying portions of the Empire will be greatly benefitted by the extended knowledge thus given of their capabilities and attractions; but the Empire itself will be strengthened, and we trust the tie which binds its several parts together so strongly welded as to prevent the possibility of severance. So far the Dominion seems to have held its own well, even as against India itself, and individual exhibitors have already received, in many cases, large orders for their manufactures. The proposal is now made that the Exhibition should be made permanent.

Treat all visiting worshippers with courtesy.