

with all our Models, it does not seem yet to have entered into any one's mind to get up a Model Congregation. This neglect cannot surely arise from lack of ability; for what cannot this generation do if it likes? nor from the matter being one of less interest or importance to civilization or humanity than any of the others we have mentioned. What more necessary for human welfare and progress than religion! What more needed in the world than first-rate examples of order, piety and virtue! What could be more valuable to Christians than a Model to which they might look, as the Jews looked to their Temple, as an example of all that is beautiful, good and true in social Christianity! Surely, in these days of universal intelligence and prolific invention, it would not be difficult to select and combine all that is best in ecclesiasticism into one *beau ideal* for the admiration of Christendom. It was in this way of selection and combination of most perfect parts, that the old Greek sculptors proceeded in the execution of their immortal statuary. Might we not adopt a similar plan with some hopes of success?

From the faculty of Architects we might surely get a Model Church edifice with all the latest improvements and embellishments,—combining all the best properties extant as regards size, proportion, light, heat, ventilation,—sitting, seeing, speaking, hearing. We have already many fine church buildings in our communion, complete in many things and much admired, but all of them have, we fear, some things that are faulty, and to which a critical person might justly object. Some, for example, are bad at the foundation, in which we of course include Deeds and Constitutions. Some are dark and want light; some cold and want heat; some have a savour of mildew and rot about them, and need thorough ventilation. We might specify many other things both in the way of ornament and use to which objection might be taken even in our best buildings, all which would clearly show that we are yet far from having a Model Church edifice to which we could point with justifiable pride.

But even if we could find a building exquisite in all its parts from foundation up to pinnacle, a still greater difficulty would await us. Where could we get a Model Minister to fill the pulpit, or a Model congregation to fill the pews? The labours of Hercules were nothing to such a labour as this. Did any one now living ever know a Model minister? In the Old World or the New, is there any place blessed with the sunshine of his presence? There are doubtless many ministers who, in the opinion of many sensible and pious people, approach as near to the perfect model as it is possible for human nature to do, who are truly admirable for wisdom, knowledge, and grace; yet, it is equally true that other persons, equally sensible and knowing as the former, can not or (which is the same thing) will not be *edified* (a common phrase and well understood) by such paragons of pastors. The fact is, and "pity 'tis 'tis true;" that the verdict of the church will not permit us to say that yet, in the middle of the nineteenth century, a Model minister has been found or *raised* anywhere. And where shall we find a congregation without spot or blemish, to which we could point as a Model? The Gospel net in these days seems to draw in as many bad fish as good, and the evil is that we cannot, like the fisherman, pick out the good, and cast the bad away. The bad stick to us frequently with more tenacity than the good, and worry and devour the good. Some congregations may, it is true, be more highly favoured in this respect than we suppose, still even the best will be found sadly plagued with bad carnivorous fish.

If, however, we cannot find a perfect whole, we may haply, here and there, light upon parts eminently worthy of praise and imitation. That this is possible in regard to buildings there can be no doubt, and that the same may be true of both ministers and people we have every reason to believe. It would, therefore, not be amiss for Christian people generally to look about them, if peradventure,