

a substitute for it, no training them as individuals in the ways of holiness and building them up in the truth. And as for purely missionary ground which is not reduced to parochial limits, I shall be disposed, instead of neglecting it, to push forward the advanced guards of the Church as energetically as possible. I cannot, however, say that the present system of solitary itinerant missionaries at all commends itself to my judgment. I am a believer in the efficacy of *concentrated* labor; I would concentrate it in towns; I would concentrate especially in purely missionary work; I would look back to the ancient days of the mighty conquests of Christian truth over heathen error, and from the wisdom of the past I would endeavor to learn a lesson both for the present and the future. Let us concentrate two or three more clergymen in Clackington, for example," added the Bishop smiling, "and I dare say that it will not be long before some help will be extended to Mr. Straddle and his parish of Pleesemwell."

"I for one should most unfeignedly rejoice in such a concentration," said Mr. Crampton. "I only fear that our present worthy Pastor will hardly sympathize in my satisfaction."

"No," answered the Bishop; "I fear not. I could not help observing that he was most anxious to impress me with the conviction that he was more than able to fulfill all the duties of the place; but as I purpose very soon to come to Clackington and judge for myself, I do not despair of making Mr. Slowton see that the interests of men's souls is his interest, for he gave me the impression of being one whom by kindly and earnest influences may be awakened to a true anxiety to labor more diligently than from the statistics of the parish he appears to do."

Many hours of the evening were thus spent by the Bishop and Mr. Crampton in earnest conversation, for the former looking upon the latter as an old friend was unreserved in the communication of his hopes and fears and plans for the future. When they parted the Bishop renewed his promise of very shortly visiting Clackington, and Crampton could not resist the impulse of a devout mind in giving heartfelt thanks to the Giver of all Good Gifts, who in His gracious Providence had sent them a chief pastor whose heart was so evidently in his work.

Want of Parochial Success.

Not very long after the conversation given in our first number between himself and Squire Churchill, the Rev. Dr. Sanerost, about the commencement of the new year, sat in his study with feelings somewhat depressed, thinking over the state of his parish. He had not been very long the Rector of the village of Thornton, C. W., and when first he came had found things in a very low state; the services had been held as seldom as possible, every approach to distinctive teaching had been carefully avoided, the Sunday school was almost annihilated, and parochial pastoral care had been for long greatly neglected;—as the natural consequences of this sad state of things, the Church had become almost a by-word, and dissenting congregations had attained a respectability and importance scarcely to be seen in any other place of similar size in the Province; this last fact was, of course, to be attributed, in no little degree, to the aid they had received from ill-taught and dissatisfied members of the Church.

Here, it will be readily admitted, was a state of things quite sufficient to cast a gloom over the feelings of the earnest-minded Rector. Besides, he had been disappointed. He had fondly hoped that when the Church was presented to the people, with somewhat of her native energy, and her holy and beautiful services celebrated with a regularity, earnestness, and frequency betokening the esteem in which they were held as Christ's best earthly gifts to man,—that then multitudes, or her own wandering children at least, would have flocked once more to her sacred courts "as doves to the windows," grateful for the opportunity of thus "calling upon the Lord in His Holy Temple," whenever their own avocations permitted; but also it had not been so at all to the extent which he had hoped and prayed for. True, the congregations were steadily increasing, the Sunday-school was decidedly prosperous, and the finances were improved; but the communicants were still a small portion of the attendants upon church; the Daily and Festival Services were sustaining an almost hopeless struggle for existence; while a parochial school in which human knowledge, instead of proving a curse, might be as God designed, a blessing by being associated with the "fear of the Lord;"—liberal alms-deeds, and eager readiness in other good works,