



ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, SHANTY BAY.

to teach people to be selfish. The beautifying of the sanctuary, the building up of the Sunday school, the increasing the attractiveness of the choir and the general music for the congregation, the supporting the pastor himself, in fact, all such parochial objects, are worthy of the most prayerful attention of our people. But if they should be, even by implication, held forth as the only or even chief objects for Christian giving, it is hard to calculate the mischief that may be done.

The Church is not simply an aggregation of congregations. It is a large body, bound by its very charter to do a certain work on earth, and that is a great work. It is to assist in the evangelization of the world. If this is not brought earnestly, lovingly, yet persistently, before congregations, so that their response to appeals made is, to some extent, worthy of their means, there is an ingredient left out in their education which must be harmful to themselves and most injurious to the great work of Christ's Church on earth.

We go upon the principle that, for the spirit of a congregation, a great deal depends upon the spirit of a pastor. When a notice is given out of a collection the congregation quickly detect in their pastor those objects which appear to him of the greatest importance, and they are led to govern themselves accordingly. We can never have, for instance, a missionary people unless we have a missionary clergy. If it is a small matter to the clergyman whether Christ's name be made known upon earth or not, it will

be a small matter to the people. If they see that it is a burning question with him, that whenever he speaks of it it fires his eye and kindles his enthusiasm, they must in time be brought to take an interest in it.

And this—may we not say it?—this is the right place to begin, in the inculcation of the principle of Christian giving. If it can be shown that the Christian religion is vastly superior, in the interests of humanity, to anything else that has ever come to this world in the shape and form of religion at all; if it can be shown that tribes who have become Christian are living in a happier and better state than when they were heathen; if it can be shown that it has put a stop to barbarous cruelties and inhuman practices; that it has rescued the weak from the iron grasp of the strong; that it has taught man to be merciful to woman, and woman to be merciful to the child; that, in addition to this, it teaches man the reasonableness of a hope in a future life and his restoration to the lost image of God, then surely there is a noble theme, and one which can never be exhausted, which can be brought from time to time before our Christian congregations for their own eternal good.

It is a noble theme. Does not the Acts of the Apostles present magnificent specimens of missionary work? Does it not show the nobility of man's character, as the original preachers of Jesus, thinking nothing of their own personal loss, laboring with heart and soul for the elevation of mankind, for the help of his