



OLD PARSONAGE, FORT HUNTER, N.Y.

do it with all our might. We may have to sow the seed of our missionary work in doubt and despondency, but, assuredly, they who shall hereafter reap the harvest will reap in joy.

But there is a point in connection with this subject which to me, at least, has always seemed to be the missing link in the missionary work of our Church. It is that we have failed, to a certain extent, to realize the importance of personal service and personal self-devotion in this matter. To a very great extent the mission work has been presented to us in the form of a request for money to sustain or extend missions. This may be, nay it is, a necessity, but there is something at the back of this which is deserving the earnest consideration of all Christians, and that is, that God does require of us the "dedication of self;" and what, perhaps, is a greater trial, that God does ask parents to "willingly offer" and dedicate some to His immediate service whenever He gives the call.

There is no more honourable office among men than that of the Christian priesthood, and among the Christian priesthood there are none more honourable than they who lead the van on the forward movement of missionary work, and of civilization. I appeal to those who are parents, and to whom God has given the blessing of sons, whether they can really do more for the honour of God, and the good of their fellow-men, than by devoting "the best and the fairest of their flock" to the service of the altar. It may be that in surrendering their bright, brave boys for this great work "they would go on their way weeping;" yet, doubtless, they would hereafter "come again with joy, and bring their

sheaves with them" to be garnered in the storehouse of heaven. Besides, there is much growing out of this which may possibly find a response in some heart, in the heart of some modern Elkanah, or Hannah, or youthful Samuel. I pray God it may be so, and that if any is called to the service of the Holy Ministry, and it should involve that personal sacrifice which is most effective and most pleasing to God, they may find that "they who sow in 'tears' here, shall hereafter 'reap in joy.'"

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 77.—ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, ASHBURNHAM.

THE village of Ashburnham is separated from the town of Peterborough by the River Otonabee, of which it is, therefore, almost a suburb, and with which it will, in all probability, sooner or later, be incorporated. The last census gives Ashburnham a population of 1,700 which is an increase of 400 in the last decade, a very good showing as population goes in Ontario, and there is every reason to suppose that it will continue to grow with the growth of Peterborough.

For many years Ashburnham formed part of the parish of Peterborough, but in 1876 a separate congregation was formed, and services were held in a small school-house which stood upon the site occupied by the present church. The zeal and liberality of the Rev. Mark Burnham, was mainly instrumental in accomplishing the commencement of a work which has been crowned with singular success. Mr. Burnham had been rector of Peterborough, and before that of the then village of St. Thomas. To his labours there Bishop Strachan bore witness in 1842 when on a confirmation tour (Memoir of Bishop Strachan, p. 202). For several years Mr. Burnham conducted the services of St. Mark's Church, Otonabee, without remuneration, and the Treasurer of the Synod noted a marked decrease (to him unaccountable) in the collections for the mission fund from St. Mark's, subsequent to his decease.

The vestry of St. Luke's Church was organized on July 13th, 1876, when Messrs. John Burnham (son of the Rev. Mark Burnham) and