

now; he had been replaced by a young, active, energetic priest, who, though he had not much money at his disposal, dedicated what he could possibly spare, together with his whole powers of earnest working, to the service of His Master; and, undaunted by the little assistance he got or sympathy he received, he had made a great advance by establishing a mission-chapel in a large room in one of the back streets, opening it for constant services, in which he taught simply, so that any child could understand him, the doctrines which the service symbolized, and making himself acquainted with the wants of the poor, winning their hearts in many cases by his kind, gentle manner, which was one step towards their ultimately coming to church. Mr. Elyot had had hard work, especially at first, but he was not to be daunted, and he even now admitted to himself a hope that means would be found for restoring the old church, the chancel of which was in such decay that it was positively unsafe for use; consequently the church had to be shut up, for he had received the gift of some money which he at once set aside for the object, and which with a little more, which in time he might collect, would suffice to pay for the restoring and in many ways improving of the old building.

In one of the fishermen's huts that stood rather off from the others lived an elderly man in whom Mr. Elyot took especial interest, for of the Lynn Beach people he was always the one who was the readiest to aid him by a few words of honest sympathy, and who always, whenever he was not out fishing, came to all the week-day services in the mission church; always, too, on Sundays at the early celebration was Fisher Dan to be seen, kneeling devoutly with such an intensely peaceful expression on his weather-beaten, sunburnt face, as he drew near in faith to receive that Blessed Sacrament which he had only so lately learnt to value: for after a long life, in which religion had been neglected and uncared for, he had through Mr. Elyot's teaching and influence been brought to think more deeply than he had ever done before on the subject, and to estimate very highly and preciously the means of grace

which were preached of, and offered at the mission-chapel.

No one knew Fisher Dan's history; he was a lonely man, and though generally beloved in their simple way by the people of Lynn Beach, he spoke little and kept much to his occupation as fisherman; they did not know his name, he was Fisher Dan to them, and since Mr. Elyot's arrival his general kindness and kindly acts had much increased; for though done in a simple unobtrusive way, there were many little things which he constantly did that endeared him to the people; many a time had he swum out to rescue in his strong arms some child who had ventured too far in the treacherous sea; many a time had he carried his own frugal dinner to some one poorer than himself. Mr. Elyot alone knew his life, all its sorrows, its failings, which the old man had confided to him, when seeking that peace which faith in his Saviour's merits had lately brought him. It was the look of a soul at peace with God that rested on his rough, hardy features.

He was sitting outside his cottage now, mending his nets, with his dog, a little rough terrier lying in the sunshine beside him; he had found the dog on the sands one night with its front paw broken, and taking it up tenderly in his arms, he had taken it back with him and nursed it till it could limp about nearly as well as ever; now it was his constant companion. Fisher Dan rose respectfully as Mr. Elyot came up, he was passing along the beach on his way to see some sick person, he stopped and spoke to him, and after some conversation about his fishing said,—

“Thursday is the Feast of S. Barnabas, Dan, you remember I told you about him last Sunday; and now, at Evensong on that day, I am going to ask any of you who can, to give something, no matter how small, so that it is given cheerfully, in the collection which will be put by towards the fund for restoring the old church; it is a sacred object, and I hope they may feel how privileged they should think themselves to offer to God their savings.” Mr. Elyot knew that Fisher Dan need not be asked himself, he was speaking more of the general congregation.