

were sufficient hands to have accomplished the whole within the first few years of the proprietor's absence.

He was detained in the country to which he had been called, very many years. Those whom he left children were men and women when he came back and so the number of his tenantry and labourers was vastly multiplied. Was the task he had left them accomplished? Alas! no. Bog and moor and mountain waste were only wilder and more desolate than ever. Fine rich virgin soil by thousands of acres was bearing only briars and thistles.

Meadow after meadow was utterly barren for want of culture. Nay, by far the larger part of the farm seemed never to have been visited by his servants.

Had they been idle? Some had. But large numbers had been industrious enough. They had expended a vast amount of labour, and skilled labour, too, but they had bestowed it all on the park immediately around the house. This had been cultivated to such a pitch of perfection that the workmen had scores of times quarrelled with each other because the operations of one interfered with those of his neighbour. And a vast amount of labour had been *lost* in sowing the very same patch, for instance, with corn fifty times over in one season, so that the seed never had time to germinate, and grow, and bear fruit; in caring for the forest trees as if they were saplings; in manuring soils already too fat, and watering pastures already too wet.

The farmer was positively astonished at the misplaced ingenuity with which labour and seed, and manure, skill, time and strength had been wasted for no result. The very same amount of toil and capital, expended according to his directions, would have brought the whole demesne into culture, and yielded a noble revenue. But season after season had rolled away in sad succession, leaving those unbounded acres of various, but all reclaimable soil, barren and useless; and as to the park, it would have been far more productive and perfect had it been relieved of the extraordinary and unaccountable amount of energy expended on it.

Why did these labourers act so absurdly? Did they wish to labour in vain? On the contrary! They were forever craving for fruit, coveting good crops, longing for great results.

Did they not wish to carry out the farmer's views about his property? Well, they seemed to have that desire, for they were always reading the directions he wrote, and said continually to each other, "You know we have to bring the whole property into order." But they did not do it.

Some few tried, and ploughed up a little plot here and there, and sowed corn and other crops. Perhaps these failed, and so the rest got discouraged? Oh, no; they saw that the yield was magnificent; far richer in proportion than

they got themselves. They clearly perceived that, but yet they failed to follow a good example. Nay, when the labours of a few in some distant valley had resulted in a crop they were all unable to gather in by themselves, the others would not even go and help them to bring home the sheaves. They preferred watching for weeds among the roses, in the over-crowded garden, and counting the blades of grass in the park, and the leaves on the trees.

Then they were fools surely, not wise men? Traitors, not true servants of their Lord? Ah! I can't tell! You must ask Him that! I only know their master said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature," and that eighteen hundred years afterwards they had not even mentioned that there was a Gospel to one half of the world.

## OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

No. 58.—ST. THOMAS' CHURCH,  
WALKERTON.

**W**ALKERTON is a thriving town on the Saugeen river, in the township of Brant, county of Bruce, and diocese of Huron. It is situated on the Wellington, Grey and Bruce division of the Grand Trunk Railway, and is about 117 miles from Toronto. It was incorporated as a town in 1872.

The following are a few historical notes of the parish, taken from its Parish Magazine:—

"It may be very safely stated, that very few of the present members of the Congregation of St. Thomas' Church, are aware of the difficulties which attended the establishing of a Church of England Service in Walkerton.

"In the year 1854, the Rev. A. H. R. Mulholland, of Owen Sound (now The Venerable Archdeacon of Grey), at the invitation of a few Church of England people, settled in the township of Brant, visited the district, and arranged to hold a service once every six weeks. The largest place, then available for the purpose, was a room in a hotel on the east side of the river, very near the house at present occupied by Mr. Walker, but before many services had been held in the hotel room, it was decided that the Orange Hall would be the better place in which to hold service.

"In 1855, the Rev. G. Hodge, whose field of labour included the whole county of Bruce, visited Walkerton every fourth week for the purpose of conducting the service of the Church. In 1859, a somewhat smaller district was allotted to the Rev. T. E. Saunders, who officiated at Walkerton, Hanover, and other places in the district.

"It was not until the year 1862 or 1863, during the incumbency of Rev. E. Softly, that the first