

your premises to your conclusion," observed Mr. Crampton doubtfully.

"The great obstacle to the extension of the Church in the rural parts," continued the Bishop, "is evidently the want of means. Now wealth, especially in this country, is accumulated in the towns, hence by organizing the towns thoroughly and bringing the principles of Divine truth to bear strongly upon their numerous and wealthy population, those principles must in due time bring forth their proper fruits of benevolence and anxiety to relieve the wants of those less richly blessed than themselves. Towns and cities have always been the centres of missionary effort."

"Perhaps so," said Mr. Crampton; "but I am sorry to say that they are also the centres, very generally, of much that is evil; and the larger cities of these colonies are no exception to this rule."

"No doubt of it," said the Bishop; "and this strengthens my argument for endeavoring to arrest the festering evils which spring up into such rank luxuriance where numbers are congregated, by diffusing the purifying influence of practical Christianity among them, for otherwise they not only become corrupt themselves, but they form the very fountain heads from which the tide of evil flows over the whole country."

"True, indeed," said Crampton; "and though in seeking to establish another parish in Clackington, I have been anxious practically to forward your Lordship's ideas, I have not hitherto observed the principle which you advocate nor recognized its importance."

"It is a principle, however, which the Church in her earlier day constantly acted upon," said the Bishop. "The primitive missionaries did not settle down in the rural parts of the world to which they directed their labors. Their great object was to secure the cities and bring their inhabitants over to the Faith, and they succeeded in this object long before the country parts became christian. The very word *Pagan*, by which we describe one who is ignorant of Christianity, is a proof of this, for, as every one knows, the word originally meant a villager, or inhabitant of the rural districts; and as these pagans, that is villagers, continued from want of better instruction to worship false gods long after their worship had ceased in the cities, the

world has lost its original meaning and has come to signify a heathen."

"Now," continued the Bishop, "we must not forget that our position in these colonies is really a missionary one. We may, indeed, *divide* the whole land long before we are in a position to take possession of it, as was done in the case of the promised land; but we must go up against the cities first—we must try to secure the centres of population, the growing, rising places that promise to become influential over their surrounding neighborhoods. There especially we ought to secure lands to increase the number of earnest, hard-working, exemplary clergymen—to establish schools and every means of gaining the young—to multiply Churches, making them, as far as our means allow, seemly and beautiful and attractive. Thus, as in early days of the Church, each of these places would become a focus from which would radiate the light of truth into the obscurer regions beyond, and the circle of holy influence around each would necessarily be ever widening, until the one met and melted into the other, and the light of the Gospel shone throughout the whole land, leaving no part dark."

Mr. Crampton listened with much interest and pleasure. The Bishop spoke with an earnestness and calm energy that showed that he was not indulging in mere theories, but was thinking over and mentioning plans which he intended to devote his whole power to carry out. After a remark in assent to the justice of the Bishop's views, he added:

"I fear the opinions which your Lordship has expressed will not be very popular in the country parishes. There is some jealousy of the towns as it is, and if they imagined they were to be neglected for the sake of the cities there would be no small measure of discontent."

"God forbid that I should ever seemingly neglect any part of the Diocese, whether town or country," said the Bishop solemnly; "but of course I shall advocate that which according to my sincere conviction is best for both. There need, however, be no fear of incurring any such imputation among the rural parishes, for wherever a parish is regularly constituted nothing but some urgent necessity would induce me to withdraw its ministration. It is through the parish that the salvation of Christ is applied to the souls of men individually, and nothing can be