

to get in twenty years. The difficulty in my mind seems where you are to get the people to fill it.'

'If the Bishop can find us the right man,' replied Crampton, 'I don't think that the difficulty of finding the congregation will be greater than that which we have already so easily overcome—I mean finding a suitable place of worship. The railway that found the church will do a good deal towards finding the congregation also.'

Mr. Slowton looked rather blank for a moment, as if he thought that Mr. Crampton intended him to feel that *he* was not the right man. A glance however at the open, kindly and gratified face of his parishioner banished the thought, and he replied:

'I am sure I hope the new clergyman may be more successful than I have been in winning your railway people to the church. It seems to me very hopeless work.'

'Why it would be hopeless work for any one situated as you have been,' answered Crampton. 'With a church hardly large enough to hold your old parishioners, and even that occupied by private property in the shape of pews, how would it have been possible for you to win them to a place wherein they felt that they had neither right nor room?'

'There is no doubt truth in what you say,' observed Mr. Slowton; 'and your open benches here will no doubt be a great help in getting them to attend to their duty; but still I can't see so very plainly the need of all this subdivision—if the people down here had shown any particular desire for the church services it would be another matter.'

'Ah, well, my dear sir,' said Crampton, 'we need not enter upon that subject again now that the measure is not only resolved on, but, I may say, completed, with the exception of the clergyman's appointment, which I suppose will soon take place now that'—

'It has taken place already,' interrupted Mr. Slowton; 'I have a letter from the Bishop only this morning, in which he says that he has found a clergyman whom he thinks well fitted for this sphere of labour, and who has consented to accept the appointment.'

Crampton's face brightened.

'I am sure,' he said, looking straight into Mr. Slowton's eyes, 'I am sure that you will not

misunderstand me, or think me rude or ungrateful, in expressing my great pleasure and thankfulness to hear these tidings, but I am so deeply convinced of the great need which exists for additional ministrations amongst us, and of the great relief it will be to yourself, and the great benefit and blessing it will prove to the souls of the people, that I should be guilty of insincerity were I not to express my pleasure and gratification at these tidings.'

Good Mr. Slowton, with all his short-comings, had a warm, soft heart, and taking Mr. Crampton's hand, he pressed it in a most friendly way. 'I believe you, my dear sir, from my heart,' he said. 'I never questioned your motives for a moment among all the hard things that have been said of late. I trust your new pastor may be a more 'able minister of the New Testament' than I have been, and I wish most sincerely that the people would allow us all to get on more harmoniously than we do. I wish 'the fighting institution' could be abolished, at any rate in the church.'

'I heartily respond amen to that wish,' replied Crampton; 'but do you know anything, may I ask, about this new clergyman and when he is likely to arrive?'

'He has recently come from some other diocese in the provinces, and the bishop seems to have known something of him in other days; his name is Evenley—the Rev. Ernest Evenley—and he may be expected, the bishop says, in the course of a day or two.'

'Does he say anything about him further?'

'Not much, except that from his own knowledge of him formerly, and from his testimonials, he is disposed to place every reliance on his zeal and judgment.'

'Do you know whether he is a bachelor or a man with a family?' asked Mr. Crampton; 'it is a matter of considerable moment to us at present; it is not much to support one, but to maintain half-a-dozen in the comfort that befits their position is not so easy.'

'He is a bachelor, the bishop tells me,' replied Mr. Slowton; 'and what is more, he says that he has some private means.'

'Ah well; now we are all right,' observed Crampton, with a look of great satisfaction; 'if he will do his duty for a little while and teach the people their duty, we shall not require the best fit of his means as well as his services.'