

are we to obtain Lay Helpers? How are we to remove or counteract the obstacles to their employment?

1st. Let the office of Lay Reader, Catechist, or whatever he be called, be made an established thing—an "institution" with us. Let it be looked upon, not as a thing which may be tolerated now and then, but as what has an official authority and place amongst us, as amongst other bodies; not as an irregular and exceptional way of doing things, but as a portion of the regular and necessary complement of *every* well-organized Parish. Let the holders of this office be with us, as with others, officially authorized and appointed by some ritual or other appreciable method, and let them be officially recognized. In short, let us have some regularly authenticated system of "*Minor Orders*." These officers need not be intended eventually for Holy Orders; but as Presbyterian Ruling Elders, Methodist Local Preachers, and Baptist Deacons hold their respective offices with no expectation of subsequently assuming the Tonsure, so let it be with our Minor Orders. The consciousness of possessing a recognized official position will do much towards removing the natural diffidence of the Lay Reader, which is at present much enhanced by the unusual and anomalous position which he holds.

2nd. Let us not (if we are anxious to secure a large number of these co-workers) look for a high standard of education amongst them. For Minor Orders let us be content with minor qualification. Christian conduct and religious earnestness being indispensable, let the other tests be as light as consistent.

3rd. Let this reform begin, as all reforms should, in the centres of Church life and thought and work—the larger towns. Not of course that they are so much needed there, but to set the example, to authorize by their precedency the setting up of the system elsewhere. Besides, men suitable for these offices are more obtainable in such places. Let these officers be employed, after a formal induction, not simply when by chance the Parish Priest is absent, but let them wear their surplices and assist in the services under the Clergyman's supervision, say, at Morning Prayer; and then in the afternoon they might hold service in some outlying place. Then, instead of depend-