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may not be the ease. But the converse proposition, that they would not have been the better for the continued and hearty support of those whom it takes away, will hardly be seriously maintained. In fact, it is impossible but that the duties and responsibilities of the Church Wardens and Vestrymen should be increased if an extra-parochial or congregational system finds its way into the Church. The people who see their Rector interfered with and hampered in his work, will become disheartened. They will give reluctantly, or not at all. And Mission Chapels must necessarily be aggressive. It is their very nature. Comparisons will be drawn between their services and those of the parish Church, which has been left. Newspaper reporters will be politely invited to attend, and warmly welcomed. Interesting paragraphs, describing the services or proceedings, will appear; not perhaps always couched in the exact language, or written with the care to avoid offence, which those who may have suggested, but not actually indited them, might desire. And all this has a tendency to interfere with the parish Church. It is impossible indeed but that the pecuniary position of the parish should, in one way or other, be affected, if such a system prevails; and the parish congregation be rendered less able to bear their portion of the Church's burthen and the Church's work.

(5.) Nor will the difficulty be confined to the limits of the parish interfered with, or its immediate vicinity. Contributions withdrawn, locally, must be replaced. This can be done only by those who remain giving yet more largely. But with very many there is a limit, not so much to the willingness to give, as to the power. They can increase their local payments only by giving less, or ceasing altogether to contribute, to something else. The Diocesan Church Society's funds will thus be inevitably weakened; and the pressure of the burthen, already almost too severe upon the struggling country Missions, become greater than they can bear. The parishes of the Diocese are indeed too intimately linked together for any one to suffer without its affecting all. And be it only one parish in which an extra-parochial Chapel is attempted, or be it in more; be it in one of the poorest parishes of the Diocese, or be it in one which has learnt to sustain itself, the principle involved is the same. The Church of England cannot abandon her old form of Episcopalian polity and parochial order, for a "congregational presbyterianism without any of its constitutional safeguards,"* in any, the smallest of her parishes, without endangering the peace and harmony, the growth and progress of the whole.

Let it not be thought then that the questions which arise in connection with the extra-parochial or Mission Chapel are other than important or momentous. In the beginning of our Prayer Book it is declared that "although the keeping or omitting of a ceremony, in itself considered, is but a small thing; yet the wilful and con-

* See Bishop of Manchester's Charge, November, 1881.