

After service the churchwardens were introduced to the bishop, and both went home declaring that he was not only the most eloquent, but the most kind and courteous person they had ever met with. Mr. Slowton was in immense spirits, and as the bishop had expressed himself as really pleased on the whole with what he had seen, the worthy rector retired to rest in a condition of wonderful pleasure and placidity as compared with the previous evening.

The bishop had taken an opportunity of intimating to the congregation his intention of remaining for a day or two in Clackington; and at as early an hour as conventionality would allow a tide of visitors flowed without intermission towards the parsonage. They all returned with that pleasing impression which the unaffectedly kind and cordial manner of their chief pastor never failed to convey, and, for the time at all events, the bishop was decidedly the rage in Clackington—every attention that could be devised was lavished upon him—Mr. Sharply, the lawyer, headed a deputation and read a magnificent address, in which he praised the bishop's eloquence in language which in his heart he believed to be more eloquent than that which he so highly eulogized. Invitations to breakfast, dinner, and tea poured in upon him as if the whole community was seized with a panic lest he should be starved. Some enthusiasts spoke about bon-fires, which led to some ravings about possible illuminations; and fears began to be entertained by the more sober-minded, that the Clackington brass band meant to take the shine out of the church choir by giving the bishop another musical treat, in the shape of a serenade, made up of "See the conquering Hero comes", with variations. Even Mr. Jeremiah Cryson was in some measure mollified, and Mrs. Slowton had hard work to resist a feeling of confidence which kept stealing over her, notwithstanding her suspicions of the bishop's "protestantism", and Miss Tibbins asseverated that she thought him "a delightful man"; and Mrs. Glumpington said he was "a dear". As for Mrs. Brown, she had quite made up her mind that he was the most gentlemanly and distinguished person that had ever appeared in Clackington, and accordingly she was perfectly determined, whatever might be his doctrines, that he should grace with his presence an

evening party, which she resolved to extemporize for the occasion; a *l'ave* "lord", even though he was an ecclesiastical one, was not to be met with in the colonies every day, and Mrs. Brown had a great idea of conscientiously improving her opportunities.

It was with some difficulty that the bishop managed, under the multitude of civilities which were pressed upon him, to carry out the object of his visit to Clackington. He explained that, much as he wished to make the acquaintance of the people, and grateful as he was for the opportunities afforded for that purpose by the kind attentions which he had met with upon all sides, he also wished to see something of that class who, from their position, instead of seeking him, must be sought for by him. He wished, from such brief personal examination as his time allowed, to inform himself of the prospects of so important a place, and the spiritual wants that were likely to arise within it and around it. His time therefore (as his visit must be brief) would be much occupied during the day; but he should be very happy to accept the hospitalities so kindly offered to him, during the evening, as it would afford him an opportunity of renewing his acquaintance with those who had kindly called upon him.

Accompanied by Mr. Slowton and Mr. Crampton, to whom, as an old friend, he felt that he showed more marked attention than to others, he first of all sallied forth and closely examined the town, calling upon those officials who were most likely to afford him precise information as to its population and the rate of its progress. He examined also with an acute eye the direction in which the buildings were advancing, and the causes which would tend to concentrate population round particular centres. Crampton, who had already a high estimate of his ability and judgment, was much struck with the clear-sightedness of his views, and the rapidity of decisions which further thought only proved to be sound and far-reaching. Poor Mr. Slowton was well nigh lost in amazement as he listened to the bishop talking of the future, for he did not exactly realize at what distance the bishop understood that future to be. There should be parishes laid out here, and churches built there; and he heard of schools and almshouses and colleges and refuges, and a host of other things, till his head was in a perfect whirl,