

Crampton, whom he advised him to consult, as from his authority over the buildings of the Railway, he seemed the most likely person to assist in finding a suitable place.

Following the advice of his Diocesan, he called upon and took counsel with Mr. Crampton, who at once placed the upper portion of a large storehouse at his disposal, and readily undertook to make such arrangements, and to provide such things as would be necessary for the reverent celebration of public worship.

'The Bishop says that he hopes very soon to be able to find a clergyman to take charge of this part of the town, so I suppose you may proceed as soon as you please to arrange the place for service. It is very fortunate for the prospects of the new parish, that such a commodious place can be secured.'

'Yes, indeed,' replied Mr. Crampton. 'It can be made into a very decent looking church, and if you give the word, we shall proceed without delay to put it in proper order.'

'Oh, I have nothing to do with it,' said Mr. Slowton. 'The Bishop has relieved me of all care or authority over you in these parts, and has taken you into his own hands.'

'Not at all; he intends of course, with your own consent, to relieve you of this part of the town; but until he sends another clergyman, you are our pastor still, and to you we are bound to defer; and therefore I say again, it is for you to give the necessary directions in this matter, and it is for us to obey them.'

'Well, well,' answered Mr. Slowton good humoredly, 'work away, but don't ask me *how* it is to be done. I leave it in your hands, and I dare say it will be all right. And if not, I'll hand you and your misdemeanors over to the new Incumbent when he arrives.'

'Very well,' replied Crampton with a smile, 'but still I hope you'll look in upon us and give us your opinion of our proceedings. I hope to do nothing but what will meet with your approbation.'

That evening Mr. Crampton invited a few of his friends who felt with him in Church matters, to meet at his house for the purpose of discussing the proposed arrangements.

He told them of the authority he had received to go forward in the work of preparing the storehouse as a temporary church, and means were at once forthcoming to meet the

expense which would be required in carrying out the plan which they contemplated.

The plan was very simple in itself; but owing to the fortunate shape and character of the room, it was in its results very effective. The storehouse, like railway buildings in general, was long and narrow, and, being the upper story, the open timbered roof rising sharply from the low walls gave an appearance to the place which was by no means inappropriate. Mr. Crampton set two or three carpenters to work and raised at one end of the room a good wide platform, elevated by four or five steps above the general level of the floor and extending across the entire width of the apartment. This he covered with a good carpet, and on it he placed a communion table against the end wall, which the ladies of his family covered with a rich cloth ornamented with the cross and monogram wrought in needlework. A small and simple lectern stood well forward towards the front of the platform from which to read the lessons and to preach, and on it lay a handsome bible. A small prayer desk, like the litany desk in an English cathedral, stood on one side of the communion table, though a little in advance of it, and was so placed that the face of the person reading the prayers should be directed across the room, and not towards the congregation.

Shortly after a very beautiful set of silver communion vessels, intended for the use of the future church, was presented by Mr. Jackson, while another gentleman ordered a very large and handsome stone font, which, though like the communion vessels destined ultimately for the church, was until its completion to be used in the temporary place of worship. A number of plain benches were provided, which were ranged along the room, leaving a good wide passage up the middle; and when at the end of a few weeks the arrangements were completed, people who came in were astonished at the church-like effect which had been produced; in fact Mr. Slowton himself acknowledged that in many particulars, as well as in its general effect, the loft of the railway storehouse was more really ecclesiastical than his own church.

'Really I shall grow jealous of you in your 'upper room,' for here, thanks to the railway and your skill, Mr. Crampton, you have in twenty days got a church nearly as large and appropriate for its purpose as I have managed