

each lady considering herself responsible for the work of her paid agent and all of them being desirous of placing themselves under my direction, and in every instance taking care to do nothing which is not sanctioned by the incumbent of the parish.

In connection with this subject, the following letter from a recent English periodical, the *Penny Post*, gives some further particulars of the efforts now being made to help on this great work. The interest of the extract will, it is hoped, make amends for its unusual length.

"As the subject of the employment of women in the Church's work now much engages the attention of thoughtful minds, will you kindly permit me to give some information, which may be generally interesting to your readers, and which may also furnish an answer to a letter contained in the Post-bag of your December Number. The writer of that letter does not seem to be aware that an attempt is being made to revive the order of Church Deaconesses, and that there is urgent need of more labourers to carry on and develop a work already begun. About two years since, the Rev. R. J. Hayne, Vicar of Buckland Monachorum, Devon, called the attention of the public to this question, and the work which he then proposed is, we trust, gradually, although slowly, progressing. As one of those allowed to take some part in it, I will try to give your readers a short account of the practical working of the institution, and the impression it has made on me, coming as a stranger into the parish. For more detailed information as to its objects and principles, I cannot do better than to refer you to Mr. Hayne's pamphlet, "Church Deaconesses,"* from which it will be seen that he is working under the sanction of his diocesan, and is anxious to adapt an institution of the Primitive Church to the pressing wants of our own times. The perusal of this pamphlet decided me on coming to Buckland, where I found a few devoted women in training for the office of deaconess. At present they live at the vicarage, and are engaged, under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Hayne, in various works of charity; but it is hoped that before long a site may be purchased for the mother house, near a railway station, close to a large mining and manufacturing hamlet in the parish, and within a few miles of the great seaport town of Plymouth.

"Having been for some months at the Deaconess Institution, Kaiserswerth, I am struck with the identity of principle in the two institutions on one or two important points. For example; in both the necessity of careful and special training for the various works is fully recognized; also the right of all classes to be allowed the privilege of engaging in the Church's work. This institution, differs, therefore, I believe, from all sisterhoods hitherto established in England, in there being no distinction of class or rank: there are no "serving sisters," or rather, I should say, that *all* are serving sisters. Our motto is, "I am among you as he that serveth:" no work is therefore considered menial; for,

* The Revival of the Office of Deaconesses considered with Practical Suggestions, &c. By the Rev. R. J. Hayne. London: Parker. 6d.