

on to greater conformity to the image of His holiness who, though He was God over all blessed for ever, was still, during all the days of his earthly pilgrimage, meek and lowly in heart. The love which had existed between Mr. Crampton and his late sister had been unusually tender and deep, for the earthly bond of human relationship had been strengthened year after year by their growing sympathy and closer union as members of the mystical Body of Our Lord. He looked upon her not only with affection but reverence, as he marked in her life the many tokens it exhibited of likeness to that Saviour whom she loved and followed. And when trial and disgrace fell upon her, and crushed her sensitive but patient unrepining spirit, even to death, he felt her loss with a degree of acuteness which is not easily described. While he mourned deeply over the rending of his affections occasioned by her unexpected death, the circumstances which had produced it added bitterness to his cup of sorrow, for it reflected the stigma of her husband's conduct upon their hitherto spotless name.

It was here that the cross cut him most sharply, and it was because it did so, that he was afterwards able with truth to say, that even that most bitter affliction had been good for him. When he looked with an inward gaze upon his own soul and asked why so sad and ceaseless a cry should be night and day going up from his wounded spirit, he found that it was not only for the loss of his sister that he mourned, but for the deadly blow that had been inflicted upon his own pride; and when he compared his feelings in this respect with the self-abasement of our Lord, and with that of thousands of His saints, who were contented to be held as the off-scourings of the earth, it unfolded to him such views of his own infirmity and sin as led him to cling with a firmer and more thankful grasp to the cross of that blessed Redeemer, who is the true friend of the sinful and the only Saviour of the lost.

Soon after he had removed his orphan niece, and now his adopted daughter, from Welford-in-the-Vale to his own home, he met with another trial in the death of his much loved and venerated friend and pastor, the Vicar of Carlisle-leigh, in which parish his property was situated. He had been an earnest, simple-hearted, and devoted man, whose heart was full to over-

ing with deep love to our Lord and to the souls of those who, as members of His body mystical, were one with Him. He was a man of ripe scholarship, and well and widely known in the Church as a sound and learned divine; but to have seen him among his rural flock, one might have easily supposed that he had no thought in the world beside the one anxious, all-absorbing care to lead them onwards in the ways of faith and holiness. The income of his vicarage was small, the property which had been consecrated to the use of God's heritage having at the time of the Reformation been diverted from its holy purpose and given to the lay impropriator, a nobleman who never resided in the parish. His style of living, however, though respectable, was more humble than his means, for he looked upon it as a duty, practically to protest against the growing luxury of the age, and the spirit of expense and rivalry by which it was distinguished. His kindness to the poor was as unbounded as it was judicious, and yet, notwithstanding all his charities, he still found means, in conjunction with Mr. Crampton, to effect some few important steps towards the restoration of the parish church, which, without being remarkable, was a good though sadly dilapidated and disfigured specimen of those rural sanctuaries which rise in their holy beauty over all the land, and amidst the hurry and vicissitudes of this world, speak, though with silent tongues, of the rest and unchangeableness of the world unseen.

Too soon—as it seemed to man's short-sighted vision—too soon for the good of Christ's Church on earth, was he taken to the rest that remaineth for the people of God, in that paradise, which has been sanctified by the sojourn of our Lord's human and disembodied spirit, and where the souls of the righteous await in blissful but long-
ing anticipation the day of the resurrection.

The new vicar was duly appointed, and very soon after he made his appearance at Carlisle-leigh. He was a young man, tolerably good-looking (a fact of which he seems to have been unconscious), extremely ecclesiastical in his views, and very zealous in his efforts to improve the spiritual condition of his flock.