

*Brother E.* That reminds me of the biography of the Rev. Jacob Obadiah Waggles, an old book which I lately read. He was well known in his day as one who rarely spoke well of a brother clergyman. Esteeming himself a wit, and also a likely selection as Rector for any desirable parish, he first strove vainly in the synod to obtain the passing of a canon for compelling the retirement of Rectors on petition from aggrieved parishoners. Next, by insinuations, grave or ribald, to suit his hearers, he improved every opportunity of increasing the number of those "given to change."

*Rural Dean.* Brethren, it is painful to reflect that poor human nature sometimes asserts its evil qualities even where it should be least expected. But Satan is skilful in selecting his agents for promoting division among brethren. Christ is by this means wounded in the house of His friends.

Charity is a theme of which we, as teachers of religion, should never tire, but set forth by word and example. "Be pitiful, be courteous," was the exhortation of the Apostle Peter. "Mark those who cause divisions amongst you, and avoid them," was the warning of St. Paul.

It is comforting to know that the black sheep amongst the clergy are few and far between, whilst as a body our clergy are faithful to their calling, abounding in labors of love, and—in almsgiving and other offer-

ings to God—contributing more to the help of the needy and the spread of the gospel, according to their means, than any other class of men.

Even if every twelfth man amongst the clergy were a devil, the proportion should be no more alarming now than it was in our Lord's day. Judas went to his own place, yet the other apostles and clergy shewed by contrast the power of the in-dwelling Spirit, and by their means "the Lord added to the Church daily such as were being saved."

An illustration of what is called the "dissidence of Dissent" recently came across an able editor in the North. An Edinburgh Presbyterian minister on one occasion, happening to visit a resident of his parish, asked what church he was in the habit of attending. The man answered that he had belonged to a certain congregation, but that he and others could not assent to certain views which were accepted by the majority, and they had therefore formed a secession. "Then, you worship with those friends?" "Well, no; the fact is, I found that there were certain points on which I could not conform, so I seceded." "Oh, then, I suppose you and your wife engage in devotion together at home?" "Well, not precisely. Our views are not quite in accord; so she worships in that corner of the room and I in this."

A certain country sexton, in making his report of burials, is explicit enough. "Died; John Smith, male; aged three days; unmarried."