

and Head, and hence, weak and poor as it was, it addressed itself in a way that was simply marvellous to the work of sending the Gospel to the dark places of the earth.

So I might go on did time permit, but enough has been said, I think, to afford ample justification for the assertion with which I began. Other churches which originated about the same time and under like circumstances as our own *lived* unquestionably, but their life was largely, it seems to me, and for a time, a parasitic life; ours on the other hand was a life drawn, it is true, from a divine fountain, but dependent for its existence and growth on no human source. We need not feel surprise, therefore, at the superstructure which has been reared on such a foundation.

But, for I must hasten on, it cannot well be denied, though I fear, especially in these times, it is too much and too often forgotten, that the character of a Church, its spiritual activity and growth, depends, to a large extent, on the character of its ministry. I go on, therefore, to say that, as the matter appears to me, our Church was largely what I have described it as being, by reason of the ministry vouchsafed to it by its King and Head. In my judgment never was there a Church more highly favoured in this respect than our own. And when I refer to the *ministry* as largely determining our Church character and work during her formative period, and that I consider to be, perhaps, the fourth, the fifth and the sixth decades of the present century, I mean, very much the *native* ministry, those who, in the most literal sense, were the Church's children, born within her pale, and educated on her native soil and in her own institutions. Let me not be misunderstood. No one will suppose, I hope, that I mean to cast the slightest reflection upon the fathers and brethren—honoured and beloved—who, from time to time, during the period of which I am speaking, came to us from the fatherland, or to undervalue their work. But for them, in many places the Church's lamp, which they caused to burn up brightly, would have been extinguished altogether. Ill would it become my father's son to do so. Many of them I knew intimately, and from some of them I received almost a father's kindness. But from very necessity, it seems to me, it is only a ministry native to the soil, which can, as a rule, best understand the spiritual necessities of their fellow-countrymen,