

his views in connection with the duties of that important office. His lordship considers the rural dean is the coadjutor of the Archdeacon; and he looks on that function as a great means of making the whole ecclesiastical machinery of a diocese to work with regularity and comfort to the clergy at large. The formal commission, he informs them, will reach them in due time; and he trusts that they will consider that the instructions are to be understood in a comprehensive and liberal sense. He wishes the clergy at large to feel assured that the office of rural dean has for its aim the well-being of the diocese, as well as the comfort of the individual clergy; and that in no case was it his wish that it should be abused to the establishment of a system of espionage by any unnecessary interference with them in matters of minor importance. The right rev. prelate expresses a hope that the rural deans will themselves realise that they are the confidential friends and advisers of the bishop; and he desires that both the clergy and the rural deans may feel, that by such an instrumentality the exercise of power by the direct interference of the bishop will, in a great measure, be rendered unnecessary. He is decidedly of opinion that it will conduce to parochial activity and the general improvement of the diocese, that the rural dean should hold periodical meetings, at which practical subjects may be most freely discussed: and wishes the clergy to be assured that any suggestion which may emanate from such a meeting, and which he may consider calculated to increase the spiritual good of the people, and to promote a mutual and brotherly interest in each other's work, will always receive his countenance and support. In conclusion, his lordship desires to thank the deans for the cordial assistance they are rendering to him, and to entreat them not in the spirit of formality, but with the deep consciousness of his own necessities, and with the most unwavering confidence in the power of prayer, to bear him and his work upon their hearts daily at the Throne of Grace.

---

#### VISITATION OF THE BISHOP OF ROCHESTER.

The following subjects have been fixed upon for discussion by the Clergy, at the several places of visitation:—

1. How to promote the habit of giving upon principle, *i. e.* setting apart a portion of man's resources, as God has prospered him, without necessary consideration of the objects to which the money is applied. 1 Cor. xvi.—At Colchester and St. Alban's.

2. The importance of an organized system of collections in parishes, for Church objects at home and abroad.—At Orsett, Chelmsford, Bishop Stortford, and Rochester.

3. Mission work; how to create an interest in it, both in town and country parishes.—The reflex benefit of Missionary meetings on our people at home.—At Dunmow, Halstead, Hertford, and Ongar.

4. Ruridecanal or Clerical Meetings; Obligations of Christian Ministers, with regard to one another in neighbouring parishes.—At Saffron, Waldon, Maldon, and Dunmow.