

*CHURCH WORK.*

IF Christians fail to put in practice the teachings of Holy Writ it certainly cannot be for want of examples. For first, if our desires be to live in this world as God would have us live, we have the example of Jesus Christ, the God-man. And lest, in comparing His perfect example in all things with the sinfulness of our best works, we become weary and faint in our minds, we have the assurance that He was tempted in all points like as we are,—that He, therefore, can be touched with a feeling for our infirmities, and will not be extreme to mark what is done amiss if He sees that we love him above all things and strive with repentance and faith to fulfill the law of charity. And the failures of His saints are made known to us in God's Word to warn us against temptation and to prevent despair, whilst the exhibition of God's merciful kindness to them inspires us with new hope.

But may we not also look elsewhere than among the saints to learn wisdom and energy in God's service? Consider the politicians, how they work. First to persuade. From press and platform the attention of the general public is earnestly sought. The district is divided into wards, and into each ward go the canvassers; and, not satisfied with frequent public addresses and the distribution of reading matter to the same effect,

they send to each individual voter those most likely to interest him, either directly or through his friends. No labour is spared until, with almost unerring certainty, the political opinion of each elector is ascertained, and, if possible, swayed into the desired direction. This is what they understand as the only way of making the election sure. And this labour is not left to the candidate himself. Every earnest friend of his political opinions works with and for the promotion of those opinions to the best of his ability.

Would that the children of light were as earnest, and, instead of leaving the advancement of religion in the parish almost entirely to the clergyman, every member of God's Church could be brought to see that he himself, at his baptism, was made a member of Christ and a priest to God, and therefore would feel bound to influence for good, by word and example, the members within the fold and gather in the wanderers outside.

Church work is most efficiently carried on where the earnest are encouraged and the waverers influenced for good by clergy, with lay helpers seeking, not only by press and pulpit and platform, but also by house to house visitation, to extend sound teaching, and simultaneously exemplifying their teaching in their daily life and conversation. "Blessed are the people that are in such a case."