

PAROCHIAL ASSOCIATION.

IN SUNDAY, February 6th, notice was given of a meeting on the Tuesday following for the purpose of forming an Association which should have the effect of systematizing Church work in the Parish, and of bringing the members of the congregation together for mutual conference and co-operation. The object was not considered of sufficient importance to bring very many to the meeting, but if one member of a family may be taken as representing a family, 100 members of the congregation were represented, and were unanimous in their opinion that good work was to be done by such an Association.

The Rector, being in the chair, referred to the need and advantage of parishioners meeting together more frequently as fellow-churchmen and fellow-parishioners outside of church walls, as regards work, social intercourse, Bible study, and devotion.

1. As regards Work, much of its power is lost for want of system; and the good influence of many who have time and inclination to do active work is lost to the Church.

2. As regards Social Intercourse, means ought to be found whereby the "all sorts and conditions of men" which make up a Parish may be brought together. Church machinery is out of gear when members of Christ and children of God, confessing a common Master, "partakes of the one bread," can meet only at the Holy Board, while in the intercourse of life they pass each other by as strangers, unknowing and unknown.

3. As to Devotional Reading. The Bible and Prayer Book are the two books universally received by Churchmen. But how seldom and how little are they studied! The Prayer Book is unclasped for Sunday use, and the Bible is read and listened to in Church. Sometimes it is read at home, but seldom *pondered* or studied—by thousands never opened at all. The one book which is of use for eternity as well as time is neglected for the multiplicity of books whose use ends absolutely with this life. Let Christian Churchpeople meet together to read and help each other in the study of the Bible and Prayer Book, and the influence will be felt not in their own souls alone but far beyond.

4. Devotion. The Church never intended that the Prayer Book should be the beginning and end of the people's devotion. Admirably as it is adapted for public worship it does not meet all our needs, individual and social. Special prayer is needed in many ways—particular intercession for many cases. The devotional life of most of us may be helped very much by gatherings for prayer and intercession of a less formal nature than that of the "great congregation."