

salvation." Distinctions of nation, class, and condition are acts with which Christianity has no concern in carrying the music of its message of pardon, peace, and good-will among men. But let it never be forgotten that it was a special note in the ministry of Him who came by way of the peasant's home and the carpenter's shop, and a sign by which He vindicated His claim to be the Christ of God and the Teacher long foretold, that "unto the poor the Gospel was preached." This was a new thing in the world. The poor had been despised by the rich and scorned by the learned. There had been great teachers and some noble teaching; but the philosophers, gathering their select pupils in privileged schools, spoke in language not "understood of the common people"; they professed no mission of teaching, but to the "classes." Christ, it should be ever remembered, was the first great Teacher of the people. He went about teaching; and His manner, His method, His message, were all new. He had no fixed place, or select pupils. By the dusty wayside, or in some quiet spot under the shadow of the ancient temple, on the green slopes of the mountain, or by the waters of Genesareth, He told the great story of the kingdom of God among men. With simplest language, aided by illustrations drawn from most familiar things, He enabled the simple, the poor, the unlearned, as well as scribe and scholar, to understand great things in the new kingdom of God on earth.

"He spoke of lilies, vines, and corn,  
The sparrow and the raven,  
And words so natural, yet so wise,  
Were on men's hearts engraven;  
And yeast and bread and flax and cloth,  
And eggs and fish and candles;  
See how the whole familiar world  
He most divinely handles."

Hence it was that "the multitude

(To be continued.)

pressed upon Him to hear the word." The "masses" were fascinated by Him. "The common people heard Him gladly."

This was no temporary work. He planted the kingdom of His Church. He left abiding command to His "ambassadors" and the "stewards of His mysteries," in unbroken succession, to carry forward His work of truth and mercy; and, in the picturesque language of His parable, He has bidden them to "go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and the maimed and the halt and the blind." "And yet there is room" in the vast banquet-house of the Church of God. And His wider command is, "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in"; and "whosoever will" let him take "freely" bread of life, water of life, wine of life.

This mission of public philanthropy, of human benevolence, of Divine compassion, the Christian Church is carrying out with an energy never equalled since Apostolic days.

But to come closer to this question: "What has Christianity done for working men?" I reply, Great things. Not, it is true, all she might have done, and should have done. Yet, even so, she has done much, and is, thank God, daily doing more, and doing her level best to overtake past deficiencies. But the blame of deficient achievement must be divided. It is not easy always to act up to the letter and spirit of a high calling. The standard of Christianity never varies, but there have been times when the Christian Church has been sluggish and sleepy. It is not so to-day; but even now, and always, if we would fully understand the aims and spirit of Christianity, we must judge them by the Master rather than by the disciples. The Church has not always represented the spirit or the teaching of her Lord; and even at her best, she is but the "earthly vessel" of His Divine "treasure."

## ST. BARNABAS THE APOSTLE.

(JUNE 11TH.)

"He was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost, and of faith; and much people was added unto the Lord."

**B**RIGHTLY did the light Divine  
From his words and actions shine,  
Whom the Twelve, with love unblamed,  
"Son of consolation" named.

Full of peace and lively joy  
Sped he on his high employ,  
By his mild exhorting word  
Adding many to the Lord.

DEAN ALFORD.