

*RURAL DEANERY MEETING.*

[A paper having been read by one of the brethren on "Courtesy Amongst Brethren, or the Duties of Clergymen Toward Each Other," discussion is invited by the Rural Dean.]

*Brother A.* I think brother Drummond deserves our thanks for his able paper, every word of which I most fully endorse, setting forth, as it does, the good which may be done by visiting clergy in promoting peace in parishes. It sets forth an evil, on the other hand, which is sure to arise when needlessly-aggrieved parishioners find their unreasonable objections to their spiritual guide encouraged and increased by even one of his clerical brethren.

*Brother B.* As an example of the good that may be done in a short time in a parish by visiting clergymen of the right sort, two city rectors, lately enjoying their summer vacation in the parish of Vaneville, found the rector in much trouble, largely owing to the untoward conduct of a *Locum Tenens* who had had charge of his parish during his absence for some months. This man, by his own statement, had held the same position in several other parishes, and in every case the rector, upon his return, had found his position utterly untenable. The clerical visitors in this case proved themselves true christians, and therefore gentlemen. Their good example and healing influences in that parish

were quickly perceptible, and their wise counsels will not soon be forgotten.

"Blessed are the peacemakers," said the rector, as at the end of their vacation he parted with them at the wharf.

*Brother C.* I know an instance in which the disturber of the peace is a visitor, a former rector of the parish, who still has a number of friends there. Some of these shew him their affection by drawing comparisons between his labours and those of his successor, to the disadvantage of the latter. The visitor forgets that his connection with the parish ceased when he resigned it and gave place to another to carry on its supervision. It does not occur to him that the true way of showing his love to it would be by promoting peace within its borders, with the consciousness that charity is better in God's sight than gratified jealousy.

*Brother D.* It is noteworthy that among the laity there are many who, instead of making their grievances or dissatisfaction known to him who is over them in the Lord, and consulting them, prefer to retail them to some other clergyman who knows little or nothing of the matter, but what he hears from these discontented ones. Here is a temptation from Satan to him to fan the flame, rather than to act upon that christian courtesy which shows itself either in good words making for peace,—or at least in silence.