

forgetfulness or faithlessness, think of the vows you have made; think of the duties connected with them; and above all, remember that you go forth as the representative of Christ, either to advance or retard His coming, in the world!

Church Matters at Clackington in 1875.

Continued.

CHAPTER X.

THE idea entertained by Messrs. Crampton and Jackson with reference to the erection of a second church in Clackington was met, when broached by them, by opposition on almost every side. Many of the longer settled and more "respectable" Clackingtonians simply laughed at the notion as chimerical; others, in a conclusive sort of way, asked where the money was to come from; others again, seeing with whom the plan originated, denounced it with a vehemence that showed how much they dreaded any earnest movement towards those distinctive principles of the church, which, wherever they had been truly reverted to, had produced such remarkable and beneficial results. Mr. Slowton was awakened from his usual easy-going good nature into a feeling of extreme uneasiness upon the subject, which is not readily described. He was offended at the idea of interference with his parochial rights—he was alarmed at the thought of opposition from a clergyman who might be of very different principles and practices from his own, but which nevertheless he felt in his heart might be borne out by the plain principles and practices of the Prayer-Book—he grew extremely sore at a feeling that secretly and vaguely haunted him that it might, further, be possible to draw comparisons which he felt would be odious between himself and a more energetic and practical man. While all these feelings were aggravated and rendered more decided by an inward though unacknowledged conviction, that in adopting the course on which he resolved, he was seeking "his own things rather than those which are Jesus Christ's," he determined to put down the plan at once—stand upon his right as the clergyman of the place, and to allow no interference on the part of any one. Had there been any doubt as to the decided manner in which he adopted this line of action, it would have been put to flight by the uncompromising way in which the ami-

able and eminently "pious" Mrs. Slowton kept him up to the mark. He denounced Mr. Crampton and Mr. Jackson, and every one whom he suspected of thinking with them, with the bitterness of genuine puritanism. He charged them with impertinence and Jesuitism, and with the design of secretly undermining their Pastor's influence, and in fact made a hub-bub in the parish that very materially aided the project which he wished to crush. On the other hand, it was found that many who had recently come into the place, and who were in no particular manner bound to Mr. Slowton, or who had been accustomed to fuller teachings and more abundant ministrations elsewhere, looked with great favour upon the project, and the promoters of it became sanguine that if they could only secure the Bishop's sanction they would certainly succeed in the division of the parish, in raising the means of supporting another clergyman and the eventual erection of a second church.

Such was the state of things prevailing in Clackington during some six months which intervened between the election of the new Bishop and his taking possession of his see. As soon after his arrival as possible Mr. Slowton set out for the cathedral town, where the episcopal residence was fixed, to pay his respects to the Bishop, resolved, if any opportunity occurred, to do what in him lay to nip in the bud any chance of episcopal sanction for the new scheme of dividing Clackington into two parishes. He went to the best tailor in the town, and had himself "got up without regard to expense," in a dress coat and a waistcoat with a rolling collar, and no end of shirt-breast and white neckcloth, and in short he adopted every legitimate means of making a favourable impression upon the Bishop.

After an interval of two days he returned home, looking radiant with good humour, and saluted his wife with great cordiality.

"Well?" said Mrs. Slowton, interrogatively, to her inferior half as he took off his great coat and gloves on his return from paying his respects to his recently arrived Diocesan—"Well, Mr. Slowton, what about the new Bishop? What is he like, and what do you think of him?"

"Think of him!" echoed Mr. Slowton; "why I was delighted; I never met a Bishop like him