

THE CONFERENCE AT BISHOP'S COLLEGE.

SUMMARY OF PAPERS AND DISCUSSIONS

EVANGELISTIC WORK AS A HELP TOWARDS HEALTHY PAROCHIAL WORK.

1st Paper by the Rev. W. T. Forsythe.

People of township parishes are mainly of three classes. (1) Adherents to the Church. (2) Romanists and Sectarrians. (3) Indifferent. Our work as Parish Priests is chiefly amongst classes 1 and 3, viz : to build up our own people in the faith, and to bring to a saving knowledge of that faith those now ignorant of it.

This is the aim and object of all healthy Parochial work. The Ordination charge bids us "seek out the sheep of Christ dispersed abroad."

Evangelistic work may be considered :

(1) In relation to nominal members of our own flocks.

(2) In relation to those without.

(I) Parochial Missions are becoming part of the regular machinery of the Church's work and Parochial Retreats are intended to revive spiritual life in nominal members.

Every Parish Priest must acknowledge the need of seasons of spiritual awakening. Every parish has a tendency to lapse into a state of carelessness.

The object of a Mission is to awaken and teach. Teaching must be complete, both as to Gospel truths and distinctive Church doctrine.

The emotional and intellectual faculties must be appealed to. The Mission Preacher should be other than the Parish Priest. Old truths, presented in new lights, attract and rivet attention. The chief value of a Mission is its protracted nature.

A Mission, properly conducted, produces a more spiritual relation between Priest and People. A lack of this knowledge of our people's spiritual life is a hindrance to healthy Parish Work.

(II) We have a duty to souls within our parishes, whose attitude towards religion is simple indifference, who never attend any place of worship. All not connected with some

religious body are under the care of the Church. The Church to be a live one must be missionary and aggressive. True Evangelistic work will build up the Church in every parish. Methods will vary according to circumstances, but will include informal School-House services, distribution of plain tracts on Church doctrines and house to house visitation. There is absolute need of reviving the affections of people, of knowing them and their knowing us : of definite dogmatic teaching and of vigorous Evangelistic propaganda in our Country Missions.

Opposition will be great and good effects slow in coming to our notice, but "we shall reap if we faint not."

2nd Paper by the Rev. E. Weary.

Parochial Missions are a help to the following classes to be found in every congregation.

1. Those who have never settled the great question : "am I in the way of Salvation ?"

2. Those who have strayed from the path of holiness.

3. Those who are conscious of some special sin known only to themselves and God, and on account of which they become discouraged

4. Those who because of "our unhappy divisions" know not what to believe.

5. Those who are careless and indifferent about the Saviour who purchased them with His own Blood.

6. Those who with God's help are trying to live according to God's laws.

The great need of every Parish is more religion of a truly healthy kind, and this a Mission will help to increase.

The work of the Church and the duty of every minister is to save souls according to the plan given by Jesus Christ, viz : the Sacraments, Prayer, the Bible and the preaching of His Holy Word.

If the ordinary Sunday and Week-day Services and parochial machinery be insufficient to arouse the hearts committed to the care of a pastor, then some special power, such as a Missioner, will speak with clearness and authority and will tell the story of Jesus Christ with the passionate helpfulness of one who has himself grasped the hand of the Saviour and has a heart quickened by the Holy Ghost,