

“—I can’t stand it; I shall go to St. Martin’s. They are all right there.”

My Brethren,—of course I am very sorry to lose any one: but I cannot think we sustain an irreparable loss when people leave us in such a frame of mind as that. The question at once suggests itself—ought they to have ever come? The church, of course, is a free church—but they, certainly, should never have come.

2. Says B.—“I have been coming to this little chapel a long time; I like the service: it has brought me many blessings; it is true that I am laughed at by my friends for coming, and it requires a good deal of moral courage to admit that I come, but I should be dreadfully sorry to have to leave. This Cross, and all the fuss about it, has given me something of a shock, I own; but God forbid, that I should doubt the honesty of my clergy. I have heard them preach these many years; I know them personally. I owe them something in the way of confidence and duty. I had better, then, ask them what it all amounts to. They will surely be able to explain any misgivings I may have; and so I shall be able to stay with them, and strengthen their hands, help to fight their battle, and say my prayers, and worship God, as heretofore, in peace and quietness.”

My dear people, if there is one congregation more than any other, which should know their clergy, and trust them, I might almost say, blindly—all lengths, it is this congregation. My house is literally open at all hours. All can come and go, as they please. You see us just as we are. We mix among you in the freest way. We assume no appearance of austere religion, or of Puritanical Pietism, which might keep you at a distance from us. No, for we feel that we are men of like passions with yourselves; trying, like yourselves, to advance, as God may lead us on, and bless our efforts, along the path of holiness. Trust us now, (as the law of charity demands) think no evil, take no offence at the sign of our Redemption.