

discussion. But we have seen for several years something more than this. We have seen within our own Church a combined and desperate effort, made in the press and in the pulpit, to fasten upon a large portion of the clergy and of the laity a charge of holding false and deadly doctrine,—doctrine false to the standards of our Church, unscriptural, and ruinous to the souls of men. Any candid person who should examine certain of our Church newspapers (so-called) from week to week for a few months, would find himself amazed at observing how very large a proportion of every number was devoted to the work of agitation,—to putting the worst possible construction upon the teachings and measures of their brethren in the same household of faith,—to sowing distrust and dissension among the laity, among the great body of quiet people in the Church, who ought to be made to hear and think of nothing but how to serve God and do their duty. A reader not particularly discriminating, and not particularly well informed in regard to the fundamental principles of the Church, and looking habitually to one of these papers for most of his knowledge of things passing in the Church, could hardly fail to be persuaded that the Church was all but ruined and lost! He might well come to believe, as no doubt some people do, that some of the most faithful, laborious, self-denying, and most useful clergy of the Church are most false to her principles, and most injurious to her good estate. To propagate these clamorous aspersions, to carry them everywhere, no pains and no expense have been spared.

#### EXTENSION OF THE CHURCH NOTWITHSTANDING.

With such a state of things within the Church, ought it to be any matter of wonder if the whole outside world should look upon us with distrust and dislike, and accepting the testimony that comes from within our own household, should keep far away from us, as an infected and distracted flock given over to destruction! But the contrary is the fact, and that is the real wonder. The Church grows: People from without come flocking to her courts like doves to their windows. In not a few places, half of the candidates whom I confirm, have come from other religious bodies within a few years, and they have come in a large proportion of cases with a real love for the Church's ways, and a full acceptance of her principles. As I intimated in the opening of my remarks on this subject, new places are calling for the services of the Church faster than we can supply them! God be praised for his mercies. Now in this experience there is a great lesson of encouragement,—encouragement not to answer railing with railing (Spirit of God forbid it!) encouragement not to ecclesiastical pride and vanity, not to contempt of others, wherever they may be; but encouragement *to go on* quietly, peacefully, earnestly, lovingly, with our ministrations, not dealing much in controversy, not assailing others, not wasting our strength upon negations, but putting forth in a positive way, and most lovingly, with a single eye to the salvation of souls "the truth, as it is in Jesus," making the Church's worship alive with unaffected devotion, visiting the sick and the afflicted, conferring tenderly with the thoughtful, speaking gently to the young, and making it everywhere and by all means, the supreme object of our efforts to awaken, reclaim, instruct, animate, admonish, console *all* who may be within reach of our pastoral care, so that, if possible, they may be saved through Christ forever. O! a living, well ordered parish, glowing with Christian truth and Christian work, full of peace, going on steadily from year to year, untroubled by narrow schemes of foolish inventions,—such a parish cannot but be a light in the world; it cannot but gain insensibly upon the esteem of surrounding observers; it cannot but appear to multitudes of weary, unsatisfied souls in the world without as a spiritual paradise, as a heavenly resting place, as a garden of the Lord, having in it celestial beauty and celestial fruit, and so be continually winning to itself admiring and loving adherents.

#### NO REAL GROUND FOR SUSPICION AND ALARM.

It should be our joy and our encouragement that these blessed effects of the ministrations of the Church result not from vehement dogmatism, not from efforts made in a spirit of propagandism, but from a ministry quietly yet most lovingly devoted to tending and feeding the flock of Christ, according to the order of His Church. And