

belong to our communion; while the effects of the latter would be to build up the Church and enlarge her borders.

How far, then, might some such course be adopted here with benefit to our Church? We are placed in a position more similar to that of the Church in the United States than to that in England, and perhaps what has been found beneficial there might be most productive of good here. We have already made one step, by the establishment of the Synod with representatives of the laity, and we trust with no small benefit to the Church. Yet this is not enough. The aid of the laity in Church work needs to be still further evoked and turned to more practical use. They should be encouraged to feel and act as part of the Church, and to recognize their responsibility as such.

We have been told by one well versed in parochial labor, that in the villages, where every parishioner is personally known to the Rector, there is not much work for an association of laymen to do, and that if organized it must be chiefly with the object of benefitting the associated, and that it would be sustained with difficulty; while in the larger missions such agents would be very useful, but hard to obtain in consequence of the few who are in a position to undertake the duty. We cannot but think, however, that in every case plenty of work would be found to be done, and that if the standard of fitness be not placed too high, men will be found to do it for the sake of Christ and his Church, without regard to any direct benefit to themselves.

In the city, however, there can be little question as to the wants and probable advantages of lay-agency. There, too, there is quite sufficient material for its organization, and many advantages for combining the steadiness of older churchmen with the energy of the younger. What we need is, not the isolated labors of good men and women, instigated by a desire to be useful, and each one guided by his own feelings, but a band of associated workers, under the guidance of the clergy, who shall feel and act as part of a system, with regular ecclesiastical appointment and authority for the discharge of their duty.

This subject is proposed for the consideration of the Synod at its next meeting, and we trust they may conclude to take some definite action upon it.

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A LAY OR SUB-DIACONATE.

THE following letter on the Establishment of a Lay or Sub-Diaconate has been addressed to the Archbishop of Canterbury by the Archdeacon of London, and is published with his Grace's consent:

Charterhouse, April 16, 1866.

MY LORD ARCHBISHOP,—Having been occupied for some months in correspondence with many persons, both of the clergy and laity, who desire the establishment of a Sub or Lay-Diaconate in our Church, I am thankful to have received permission to address to your Grace this letter, and to lay before you the result of the proceedings. Your Grace is aware, that in the last autumn an Association was formed for promoting the establishment of a Lay or Sub-Diaconate in our Church. The attention of the public was but slightly directed to it, and no great pains were taken to make its existence known; a few advertisements appeared, and persons willing to act as Lay or Sub-Deacons were requested to send me their names. In a very short time I had answers from more than one hundred persons of all ranks