

THE NATION'S SLEEP

resided in their dioceses. It was enough for them to reap their preferments, and the system of pluralities was universal. The Bishop Luxmoore of Hereford, subsequently elected Archbishop of St. Asaph, acquired for his eldest son an annual revenue of £7618, for his second son one of £1963, and for his nephew one of £830. The poor parish incumbent, on the other hand, was so badly paid, and had such a hard time of it, that it was quite impossible to find men of any culture or standing to undertake the work. He would have three or four churches to look after on a stipend of between £10 to £12 a year. Consequently one reads of places where only two sermons were preached in twelve months; of others where no sermons had been given for five or six years; others, again, where service was only heard every other Sunday. In one parish mentioned (and we are told it was no exception) services had ceased altogether. The vicar neither preached nor registered births, marriages, or burials. "He spent his time in taverns, was a public drunkard and brawler, quarrelling with his parishioners and others."¹ The truth is that the Anglican Church during the eighteenth

¹ *The Welsh People* (Rhys and Brynmor-Jones), p. 464.