

cided by any one with reference to their supposed bearing upon the present election. We do not know that they have, or can have, any such bearing; but even if they should appear to have, let that consideration be left entirely aside. Determine each point as it comes up, upon the broad principles of equity and wisdom; and trust in God that He will make all things work together for the good of His Church.

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Church Matters at Clackington in 1875.

CHAPTER XXI.

CLACKINGTON was in a flutter of excitement. An arrival of such importance as a second clergyman who was to reside permanently in the place, and to preside over a separate and independent parish, called up a feeling of interest in almost every mind, although the source of that interest was very different in different persons.

The ladies especially were on the tiptoe of expectation; and when it was authoritatively ascertained that he was a bachelor, there was, especially in the minds of the junior members of the sex, a strong conviction of the wisdom of the Bishop's proceedings in dividing the parish.

Poor man! how he *was* criticized during the days that intervened between his arrival and the following Sunday. Mrs. Slowton, notwithstanding her efforts to be civil, could not help showing her teeth when any favorable opportunity presented itself, but Mr. Evenley seemed perfectly impassible and unmoved, and indeed Mrs. Slowton began to think that he must be almost stupid, so little did he seem to feel or even comprehend her thrusts.

Mr. Slowton was as usual kind, but constrained in spite of his efforts to the contrary, while the new comer was respectful and even deferential in his manner towards him, and at the same time he was so open, cordial and natural, that Mr. Slowton could not but feel favorably disposed towards him.

Mr. Crampton, Mr. Jackson, and all those who were the leading persons in the new parishes of St. John and St. Jude, lost no time in paying their respects to the new Incumbent, and were on the whole very favorably impressed with Mr. Evenley. There was, as may be supposed, some difference of opinion on the

part of some of all the multitude who called upon the new parson, or who met him at an evening party, which Mr. Slowton invited to his house to do honor to his guest.

"Well," asked Mrs. Glumpington next day, after the party, as she chatted to Mrs. Brown, with whom she was discussing recent events, "what do you think of this Mr. Evenley?"

"Why to tell you the truth I hardly know what to think," replied Mrs. Brown. "I had not much opportunity of talking to him last evening; but his address is good, and his manner, though grave and quiet, is, I think, pleasing."

"Do you think so? Well, I really got so frightened by looking at his stern face while he was silent, that I could not muster up courage to speak to him at all."

"He did not strike me as looking stern as you say: on the contrary, I thought his laugh particularly prepossessing. I am afraid he'll make havoc among our young ladies if they don't take care."

"I'm sure you don't think him handsome," said Mrs. Glumpington.

"Why, no, not exactly; but his looks are good enough to ruin the peace of half the girls in the place if he is given to flirting."

"No danger of that I should say; he looks anything but like a ladies' man; and, besides, he is no doubt a Puseyite, and they are great advocates for the celibacy of the clergy."

"Does any one know any thing of his doctrine?" asked Mrs. Brown in a different tone. "I have asked several if they have heard him say anything that indicates whether or not he is likely to preach the Gospel."

"Gospel indeed!" echoed Mrs. Glumpington, tossing her head, "its very little Gospel you'll ever hear from him, or I'm much mistaken."

"Ah, my dear, that is truly lamentable; but as to my hearing him, I don't think there is much chance of that—of course I mean habitually. I am not going to desert dear Mr. Slowton, and the Gospel, and the most respectable pew in the church to sit on a vulgar open bench in a railway storehouse, I can tell you."

"I should think not," remarked Mrs. Glumpington; "but I hear half the town are going down there next Sunday to hear him. I'm sure I shant go to be crushed up among a low set of railway people."