

services in neglected neighborhoods and the Clergy are beginning to find work for communicants to do through organizations such as Bible Classes, Auxiliaries, Societies and Brotherhoods.

I have been officially connected with this Diocese in various offices for nearly forty years. I know much that is to be known of every Parish and Mission, and my personal observations in Confirmation tours under our late Diocesan and on my own account bear me out in what I am now going to say. I can, in the first place, unreservedly and gratefully testify to the general prevalence of much strong, sober, steady spiritual work accomplished, at times under great difficulties and with heroic patience; and I have been greatly cheered by witnessing many and unmistakable signs of the vitality of Church life in places which were for some time discouraging; and I recognize with devout thankfulness to Almighty God the earnest devotion and faithful work of the present staff of Parochial and Missionary Clergy. There are a few exceptions if I may judge by the letters I occasionally receive from Parishioners who say to me when vacancies occur how dearly they would like to see their Clergyman promoted. I am thankful they are few; very few indeed. I regret that there should be any.

There is another matter I wish at this time to touch upon. I cannot help observing a growing restlessness on the part of the rural Clergy, more particularly the younger men. I am obliged very often to turn a deaf ear to their appeals. If a Bishop had to move his Clergy, say every two or three years, his life would scarcely be worth living. While I am not, as a general rule, in favor of long pastorates, the Parish must be a very discouraging one, or the Clergyman very feeble, if the connection cannot continue for at least five years.

A Clergyman filled with the fulness of Christ is not likely, even in a small Parish, to have a Church practically empty many Sundays. When the Christ is lifted up, He draws men unto Him. He draws men also to those who lift Him up. We need never despond if we ourselves are faithful. Most of my ministerial life was spent in the