

## FAREWELL SERMON AT COLCHESTER.

Rev. George Trentham Maw, M.A., senior curate of St. Mary-at-the-Walls, Colchester, on Sunday took his farewell of the parish, to enter upon his new duties as Rector of East Barnet. The rev. gentleman, during his 11 years' service in Colchester, has endeared himself to many sections of the community, and in St. Mary's parish he will be much missed, especially by the laity in whom he had evinced the kindest interest. The large congregation that assembled at Mary's on Sunday evening included the Church Lads' Brigade in uniform, many "old boys," school teachers, school children, and others, most of whom were visibly affected by the farewell. The service was very impressive, and at Mr. Maw's desire, the choir sang Wesley's grand anthem, "Blessed be the God and Father," and Walmisley's fine setting of the canticles. The hymns, "Praise the Lord, ye Heavens adore Him," "Angel voices ever singing," and "Saviour, again to Thy dear name we raise" were feelingly sung under the direction of the organist (Mr. Charles Diamond), and at the close of the service, which was intoned by the Rector (Rev. G. T. Brunwin-Hales), the benediction was pronounced by Rev. G. T. Maw.

Mr. Maw took for his text the words, "The Lord shall give His people the blessing of peace" (10th verse Psalm 29), and pointed out that though sorrow was a necessary part of man's lot here on earth, yet there was a peace which the world could not give, a peace based upon righteousness, the peace of conscience against which the storms of life would beat in vain. And may that peace be yours through life (he said in concluding), for what better prayer could I pray as the last prayer I may pray for you as one of your parish priests? For eleven years I have gone in and out amongst you, and now at the end of that ministry I would thank you from the bottom of my heart for the many kindnesses shown me and your forbearance towards me. I owe far more than I can ever express to the kindly encouragement of many in this congregation, and also to the example of many—some of them no longer with us—the example of patience, humility, and forbearance, and all those Christian graces which I have ever tried from time to time to put before you from this pulpit—and yet found it so difficult to attain. Having thanked the members of the Choir for their efforts in adding to the devotional service, the rev. gentleman addressed the children. I have watched you (he added) as you have grown from infancy to boyhood, some of you from boyhood to manhood. I have shared in your sorrows and your joys, I have noted your failures, I have thanked God when I have seen you rise above them. I have tried during all these years ever to keep before you the high ideal of the Christian life, and I have tried to teach you to be faithful to your Master, faithful to your Church, faithful to yourselves. In season and out of season I have urged upon you the duties of reverence and self-discipline, of unselfishness and self-sacrifice, the duties of honesty and truthfulness, and purity of thought and word and deed. We will not forget them, and may be even our parting may have the effect of bringing them more clearly before your minds. If so, however painful that parting, it will not have been in vain. For after all, the greatest, by far the most important work that I have done for you is a work which, thank God, I still can do for you. Any success we may have achieved has been God's, not ours; any success there may have been in our work of the Church Lads' Brigade, and the knowledge I have gained of your individual needs and characters, difficulties and temptations, and the very friendships I have formed with you which have been so valuable to me, may have been the result, not of the hours I have spent amongst you nor of any words I have spoken to you or you to me, but rather of the prayers I have prayed for you, each one individually day by day—and I know that you have prayed for me; and God forbid that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you. That, my brethren, is a work that shall never cease, and you, I believe, will still continue to pray for me. It were useless and presumption to suppose that during all these years there have been no mistakes. There must have been many, but if ever I seemed to treat any of you with injustice, or failed to rebuke when a rebuke might have been necessary, or failed to speak just that word of encouragement which you needed in your fight against sin and the world and the devil, I trust you will forgive me. And now must come that word which I have dreaded for so many months—Farewell!

"Farewell." If ever lowest prayer

For others' weal couched on high,

Mine will not all be lost in air.

But wait your access beyond the sky."