

path through mountains of impediments, over which our way were otherwise impracticable.

And as with individuals, so it is with communities, —with organizations for social benefits; with associations for spiritual advantages. It will be so with united efforts for resisting the power of Satan's agencies, and of keeping within a safe guardianship those whom he would make his victims. Without, indeed, the keeping of Christians together in a condition of mutual strengthening and encouragement; without the consolidation of members of God's church into a circle and company of their own, with teachings and ordinances to preserve that union,—the contest would be a feeble one against the powers of darkness that surround them. It would, otherwise, be a single-handed contest against overpowering enemies, and discouragement or failure would be sure to follow.

This shows the value of the parochial system in the Church of God; that is, having allotted boundaries within which His commissioned servants are to labor, —spheres of duty which it is possible for them to traverse and oversee, —companies of the faithful whom they can individually reach and minister to. And in working out this parochial system, so useful and indispensable, there are none of those appointed to its duties who have not grave difficulties to overcome, and great trials to endure. There are none without their seasons of distrust and discouragement; without the temptation, oftentimes, to abandon a godly effort as hopeless. But in the faithful servant, the claims of duty are made to rise paramount over such discouragements: the command of the Great Master will not al-