

and congregations. Every sort of disunion, and every tendency towards it, is an element of weakness; and everything that tends to bind people together in closer bonds of sympathy and affection, is an element of strength. The most able and efficient parishes are always those which are most united; the least so of all, other circumstances being equal, are those which are most discordant. And it is sad to say, that the condition of things in the church at Corinth — a condition of things which caused the Apostle so much anxiety, and which he labored so hard to correct — was by no means peculiar to that time and place. Trouble in parishes, trouble in churches, is a thing of very common occurrence, and is amongst the most difficult to be removed and the most disastrous in its results. Every thing of this nature should be carefully guarded against, prevented if it can be, and remedied as soon as possible. But the mere absence of discord is not sufficient. There should be active co-operation. Two drops of water, mere particles of matter, may *unite*, but they still remain *inert*. A cord of many strands is undoubtedly stronger than if it had but one; but the number is of no consequence, if the cord is never used. The members of a religious body should not only “stand fast in one spirit,” but “with one mind” they should “strive together for the faith of the Gospel.” Then will the work of the Lord prosper in their hands: then will their efforts be crowned with success; and they will increase in numbers, and go from strength to strength.

And, finally, among other causes of decline or growth, among other elements of strength or weakness, may be mentioned those of *Neglect and Promptness in relation to all matters of parish business*. Some parishes, like some