

But I must not omit to admonish the laity of the Church, as its appointed leader.

You, my brethren, have the destinies of the Church committed to your care. And I fear many are not half awake to the responsibilities of their position. For a long time they have been leaning upon others. They have not taken up the cause of the Church, as a body, with any generous ardour, any heartiness, as if they loved it, and cherished it as their own flesh. They dole out a miserable pittance, a bare existence, to the clergy, but it is done by fits and starts, not as it is needed. And instead of the whole mass of Church people contributing according to their means, a few are called on again and again, known to be liberal givers, and some of the richest people in our communion give miserably little.

Every one may now know, from the changes made in our position by Churchmen at home, that you must either endeavour to build up the Church in the poorer parishes, or the services of the Church will be, must be withdrawn. And the sin of that withdrawal will certainly lie at your door. And without some local endowment it never has been found that the voluntary system can stand the strain laid on it in poorer places.

People make great and magnificent promises when they desire a clergyman's services, and under the pressure of their pledge they do something considerable the first year; but as soon as the novelty is past, they get tired, find or seek occasions of offence, diminish and then withdraw their subscriptions, and finally the clergyman is starved out, the services are ended, and religion is driven away. That this lamentable end may not be seen amongst us, we must, as a body, be more zealous. I can do no more than lay the matter once more plainly and faithfully before you, praying earnestly that God may incline your hearts to hearken to words, I trust, of truth and soberness, and to act as becomes the members of a communion which has it in its power, whenever the members generally have the will, to be an instrument in God's hands of the greatest good to the province and people of New Brunswick.