

rather than censured. By all the members of the church, therefore, the good name of the minister should be regarded as a sacred trust, and should be defended by them as tenderly as their own, for their own and their children's interests are clearly connected with it.

There is a habit, often indulged in without thought, of criticising the minister's sermon, and that sometimes before children and those who are indifferent or unfriendly to religion—a habit that does much harm. It destroys the effect of that sermon for good. It tends to produce prejudice against minister and message. It is unjust as well as unkind; for there is no minister who does not sometimes preach an inferior sermon. He often must come short of his own standard, even. By bodily ailments or temporary distractions, or by various calls upon his time, it is often rendered absolutely impossible for him to make the needed preparation, and the sermon has to suffer. Allowance should be made for this. And let it be hinted that the fault may be in the hearer rather than in the message.

Church members should co-operate with the pastor. Help your minister; he cannot accomplish much unaided. Do not let him stand alone while there is such a vast field of work lying around him and you. Help him by attending faithfully upon his ministry; by being always present and seated so near to him that he may feel the influence of your sympathy; by receiving the Word attentively from his lips; and by bringing others under the sound of his message. Do not discourage him by being absent. Assist him by informing him, when there are those who are sick, or sorrowing, or spiritually awakened.

DUTY VIII.

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE BENEVOLENT OBJECTS OF THE CHURCH.

Giving to the cause of God is an act of worship. The Scriptures put this beyond question: "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase." There is scarcely a surer method of manifesting our love and the sacrifices we are willing to make for Him who gave up all,