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SOCIALITY IN THE CHURCH.

There is probably no quality that is more in demand by those who are trying to "suit themselves" with a church, than sociality. Scarcely any recommendation of a particular congregation can be given, that will be more influential with most persons, than that they are "such nice, free, sociable people." And on the other hand, it is to give them the blackest of all black marks to say that they are "stiff and cold," and that "there is no getting acquainted with them." Hardly any complaint is heard so frequently as that of the *want* of sociality. In not a few cases, such complaints issue in losing interest in the church and all its services, and either almost or altogether giving up attendance on public worship, or removal to some other congregation where more of the social element is expected to be found. If there be no sociality, the attractions of fine architecture, beautiful music, preaching talent, and even religious earnestness, will be exercised very often in vain. But if the people excel in this respect, they may fall behind in many other of the constituents of church-power, and yet gather numbers about them.

These facts are familiar to us all. We have all seen, perhaps, many of us have *felt*, what is here briefly described. Facts so important demand the careful consideration of Christians, who are to "become all things to all men," and to lay every influence under tribute for Christ, saving only that they never "do evil that good may come."

There can be no doubt, that, in the ideal of a Christian church, the picture of the church as it ought to be,—in that ideal which is ever before the eye of our Divine Lord, which has been the hope and aim of His holiest servants, and which has been most fully realized whenever, and wherever, and in proportion as any church has been most filled with the Master's spirit, —in that ideal the social element has occupied a large place. What heart could conceive, or what pen describe, a more beautiful example of it than is given in these words, written of the church at Jerusalem, immediately after the Pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit?—"And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods,