

number of communicants was satisfactorily increasing and that the offerings on the Lord's day were not on the whole disappointing. We can never bring ourselves to say that there is enough done in this respect or that the largest gifts thus contributed at all approach the amount which duty to God should instigate men to give. Yet, even with this persuasion, we must always be thankful for any growing evidence that the grand obligation to honor the Lord with our substance is being more and more appreciated.

In contemplation, then, of the privileges you enjoy in possessing this capacious house of prayer, and of having a minister of the Lord resident amongst you to supply you with the devotions and teachings and ordinances which are the purpose of the Sanctuary,—I must entreat you not to be forgetful of the *responsibilities* which the possession of such a privilege lay upon you.

In the first place, these responsibilities demand that there should be a steady and conscientious attendance at God's house, for the reviving and strengthening of the souls. Souls must not be left in isolation; each to think and work for itself apart. Its fervour in such case would soon die out: without contact or sympathy outside, it would easily be drawn away into the excitements and dangers of the world.—Our blessed Lord meant to encourage union in religious exercises when he said, "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." And no doubt the Lord's injunctions, as well as their own sense of its importance, urged his early followers to meet statedly on the first day of the week for the breaking of bread and