

WE remember sitting upon the platform at an annual meeting of the Bible Society, when a large proportion of the benches in the Hall were empty, and as a natural consequence, speaker after speaker scolded the absent ones who could not hear him, and gave the blues to the present ones who could hear him. At last a gentleman rose to move, or second a resolution; and in doing so took an entirely different view of the matter, and quite convinced us all that there were two sides to that, as well as every other question. He argued that the absence of the great bulk of the Christian public was owing to the fact that the Bible was safe, and doing a good work; and as they had paid their last year's subscription, and intended to pay the next when called upon, they did not see the necessity of taking any further trouble. "Attack the Bible," said the speaker, "and you will soon call together more people in defence of it than this Hall could hold."

We are glad that we attended that meeting and heard that speech; for otherwise we should have been unable to put any favourable construction upon the absence of the members of Trinity from the Easter meeting. As it is we can suppose that the congregation are so perfectly satisfied with the management of affairs both spiritual and temporal, that they do not think it worth while to do more than contribute to the funds and leave the committee to dispose of them as they like. All, of course, but the *ten* (that being the number present outside of the committee) who put in an appearance. And as some of those were put into office, the number of the malcontents is reduced to a very small fraction of the congregation. We do not know what the committee think of it: but for ourselves we must say that even with this charitable construction we do not like it: and as there is still a good deal of the old Adam in us, we fear we shall be tempted to get into mischief for the purpose of increasing the attendance at these meetings. If therefore we begin to develop a little ritualism our readers must not be surprised. It appears that the only course left open to us is the ritualistic one. We have, no doubt, that a dozen lighted candles placed upon the Communion Table for a few Sundays would give us a meeting quite large enough for all practical purposes; and as the expense would be trifling, it appears to be the simplest way of getting over the difficulty. Such a course would no doubt make things exceedingly lively for a time: but for ourselves, we say anything is better than stagnation. We hope our readers will take the hint, and be in their places at 8 o'clock, p. m., on Monday, May 13th. The Easter meeting having been adjourned until that time.