

to be "sleeping partners" only in the ecclesiastical concern, and then to complain of being "scolded" because the other partner tries to wake them up? Are they to drive men away by their strifes and divisions, or by their unsociableness, and then blame the pastor because "the church doesn't fill up?"

We have known men to make a daily practice of telling everybody they met that the church was "going down," and then wonder why the finances were always behind! A lady of our acquaintance once informed us, that the second time she entered a certain church, she was very confidently told by a lady-member of the congregation, that "if she only knew what they said about her husband, she would never enter that church again!" Was it strange she never did! We know of another case, in which, after a minister had been faithfully warning his young people against the intoxicating cup, in a discourse which a certain busy-body thought bore hard upon somebody's husband, the said busy-body told the wife of said unfortunate husband, that if she was in her place, she would never send her children to that Sabbath School any more! We could give other instances of a similar nature, but enough. If all our pastors were to tell what they know of such unpleasant and surprising experiences, our readers would no longer wonder why some churches "don't fill up."

Who has not heard parents, members of our churches, freely canvassing the faults and criticizing the sermons of their minister in presence of their children? How rarely, on the other hand, do they speak of his good points—of the benefit

they have received from his preaching, of his earnestness, of his kindly manner, of his self-denial, or of his success! And is it surprising, then, if in after years these children feel no attachment to him and leave the church? Whose fault is it in such a case that "the church doesn't fill up?"

Then what shall we say of those "honorary members," of which there are so many in all churches, who, if they are not guilty of any of the faults or indiscretions to which we have referred, are actually do-nothings, and almost know-nothings amongst us? We speak more in sorrow than in anger, but is it not for a lamentation that so many of the professed followers of Jesus are of the "blind and the lame," who can, according to their own account of themselves, render no service in the army of the Lord? Of how many has the Lord had to say, after a revival of religion, "Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?"

What is the office and duty of a Christian pastor? Is he the mere *proxy* of the church, appointed to do its work? Or is not the Divine command, "Let him that heareth say, come!" In our judgment, it is the business of the church rather than of the minister, to fill the house. It is the magnetism of their life more than of his preaching that is to "draw." And till our people more thoroughly apprehend this fact, we shall continue to hear the complaint that "the church doesn't fill up."

There is a still more important question than the one we have been discussing, however, but that we must defer till next month.