

power left for active aggressive work in the regions around. If such work is engaged in at all, it can only receive a slight supervision, and must be left almost entirely to the lay members of the congregation for planning, direction and performance. But these members have their own special duties to perform in ordinary life. Those of them best suited for aggressive Christian work can often give but little time to it, for their business demands their close attention. Thus, the aggressive work is either poorly or spasmodically done or not done at all. And yet it is one of the great objects for which the Church exists; for each congregation should surely endeavor to save those who, within sight of its spire and within hearing, it may be, of its anthems of praise, are living in misery and sin, and dying in despair. And yet, as things are now, it is folly to expect that much of such work should be done.

One reason of this we have shown. The remedy for the trouble so far as it is due to this cause would lie in having fewer city congregations, if need be, and more ministers attached to each. The pastor should have at least one assistant and, where possible, more than one. Thus the various services could always be adequately prepared for; visiting could be regularly and properly conducted, and time would be afforded for aggressive work. By division of labor, more and better work could be done without imposing an unbearable load upon any worker. Unless in exceptional cases, the change of preachers would be far from unwelcome to the audience; and, should the chief minister fall sick or be called suddenly away from his charge, there would always be some one to carry on the work in his absence.

This plan of having assistants in city charges is far from new. In Scotland it is quite common, and in the Episcopal churches it prevails in all lands. Its advantages both to minister and congregation are at once apparent, especially in a church which like ours favours prolonged pastorates. But it would also be of advantage to the young men who would occupy the position of assistants. They would become acquainted with the best methods of working, and thus be better fitted for taking the pastoral oversight of congregations of their own. Experience too has shown the beneficial results of this plan in helping the church