

represented? Does the minister find himself aided and sustained in such matters by the body of the congregation, as their common idea of a comprehensive church would properly require, and naturally lead him to expect? It is the rare exception when he does. Generally, if he finds the proportion of one layman in ten who shows a living and active interest in such affairs, he feels encouraged. Do I exaggerate the state of the case when I say that ine-tenths of the people show no real interest at all?

The Church is the grand want of the world—the Church as we understand it, inclusive and comprehensive—the Church as a living, spiritual body of people. It is expedient that we have pastors and teachers to-day, as in the early times. But such pastors and teachers do not stand in theory, and ought not to stand in practice, in the place and stead of the body of the people to do the work of the Church. The Christian rites and privileges of the people are on a par with those of the pastors. And in every department of Christian activity the *duties* also of the people are on a level with the duties of the pastors. The Church was active and aggressive at the first, and it requires to be active and aggressive still. There were error, ignorance, and sin, against which it waged war eighteen hundred years ago, and there are error, ignorance and sin against which it is called to wage war to-day. The existing state of society in the Old World and the New, shows its terrible want of the divine remedies of the Gospel. The Church has a great and pressing work to perform, as an agent of renovation and redemption. I need not remind you of its two-fold obligation to those within and those without its own pale. In every department of obligation, pastors and people, laity and clergy, are co-ordinately responsible. The minister is called on to be interested in the wants of the people whom he serves, and to meet such wants, temporal and spiritual, as best he can. But the people are equally called on to be interested in each other, and minister to mutual necessi-