

ministers seem not to understand, is that people become interested in any enterprise, secular or religious, just in proportion to the extent to which they themselves are actors in it.

"If the minister and two or three others acting with him do all that is to be done in the way of Christian effort, and reduce the rest of the congregation to a passive reciprocity, the whole affair becomes tame and dull, no matter how brilliant may be the efforts put forth.

"The prevalent opinion is that the Sunday-school does not flourish in this or that congregation, because it happens to have no adequate supply of teachers and officers. I hold this opinion to be a pernicious error. Every congregation, with almost no exception, has within itself the elements for a good and vigorous Sunday-school organization. The men and the women are there, but they need to be called out, and in most cases they need to be instructed in their work.

"They do not know exactly how to go about it. They want some instruction, some hints at least, in the art of teaching, and of school management. A pastor who himself understands well the theory and practice of teaching and of school organization, so as to be able to mould and shape the materials at his disposal, and to convert these intelligent and educated men and women into efficient and skilful teachers, has therein a wonderful power for good.

"It is the pastor's work, not to teach the Sunday-school, not to superintend it, but to create superintendent and teachers, if he does not find them readily fitted to hand; and it is an essential part of his seminary course to study how to do this important part of his pastoral work. Preparation for the Sunday-school work, just as clearly as preparation for the work of the pulpit, constitutes a legitimate part of the seminary course."

LOVED ONES IN HEAVEN.

I doubt not that we shall find our children there. I do not believe that the heart has been kindled to so much fear and suffering that it may be quenched with everlasting forgetfulness. This is my liberty. It is not God's revela-

tion. It is my necessity. And I am not rebuked when I indulge in such thoughts. My heart cries out to those who have loved me and gone to the heavenly land; and when I cry to them I hear a voice answering, as the Spirit and the Bride are represented as saying, "Come!" At night, by day, at twilight, in joy, and in sorrow, I hear the voice of loved ones saying, "Come!" Over all troubles, louder than the noise of wind and storms, I hear the voices of those who have gone before me saying, "Heaven is real; God is real; love is eternal; come—from out of winter, from out of trouble, from out of storms, from out of the sinland, come!" There sound perpetually from the walls of the celestial city, voices that win and woo every aching heart saying, "Come, come, come!"—*H. W. Beecher.*

THE PASTOR'S ASSISTANT.

A young minister was once called to a young and plastic church. One of first questions which he asked was, "Do your people take good religious papers?" The elders scarcely knew. He was unwilling to accept their call unless they would see that the congregation was well supplied with that sort of literature. They liked his proposal. The people began to read more upon Church and Christian affairs, and he began to arouse them to earnest working and generous giving. The contributions increased wonderfully, for the people were learning of the real wants of the Church. The preaching was blessed. Press and pulpit lent a force to each other. Pastor and editor were mutual helpers in the same good work. And here is the real design of an earnest, thoroughly Christian paper. It is not to draw dividends upon the large investments, not to wage controversy, not to deal out the mere news of the day, not to publish brilliant essays; its leading design is to do what the pastor should be doing, if he knew everything, and could be talking and teaching every week in every house. It is his assistant and vicar in the parish. It supplements his work. It goes on wings while he must walk. It goes when and where he cannot go. It makes a Sunday call on his people,