

How many a habit of carelessness that might ultimately lead to an utter neglect of the means of grace ; how many an error in sentiment, that undetected might lead to confirmed scepticism ; how many an intimacy with the ungodly, that might prove disastrous to Christian character ; how many an estrangement among brethren, that might lead to entire alienation of feeling—how many such things there are, that, unless taken in time, might lead to frequent and most painful exercises of discipline, which the visit and counsel of a judicious and faithful pastor might avert.

If we consider further the fact that there are many faults of professing Christians, such as covetousness, censoriousness, pride, indolence, which as they are blemishes of Christian character, also hinder the harmonious working of the church, and which might be much modified, if not cured, by faithful personal dealing on the part of the minister—it must be evident that pastoral visitation contributes much to the holy living of the people, and to the good government of the pastor.

2nd. Faithful pastoral visitation will have a most important and beneficial effect, not only on church life and church rule, but also on church work. Christ gave to his church pastors, for the perfecting of the saints to do *work of service*. None more than Congregationalists recognise the duty of every member of a Christian church to do work for Christ. No system of church polity affords greater facilities for the employment of individual effort in connexion with the cause of God, than our own, and it will be found that none of our churches are so prosperous, as those in which this duty is most generally recognized, and where all or most are doing active work for Christ. Now while it is quite evident that intelligent practical preaching will tend much to the production of this desirable Christian industry and effort, and will tend to make intelligent, earnest workers, nevertheless very much more is needed. Our people do not more need to be told to work for Christ, than they do to be put to work, to be told what to do, to have their appropriate sphere indicated. And who but the pastor is expected to do this? But the pulpit is not the place in which to concoct a scheme of church work, and apportion to each their share. This involves a treatment of details as to the specialities of work and an amount of explanation and instruction in regard to the means and method of doing it, and an acquaintance with individual preferences and ability, and a general supervision and inspection of the whole that necessitates pastoral visitation more or less systematic.

3rd. Not one of the least benefits resulting from pastoral visitation, is the additional moral power thus imparted to the pulpit ministrations of the minister. To benefit by our preaching, our people must be made to believe that we are in earnest, that we love their souls, and sincerely desire their salvation. The most eloquent appeals from the pulpit, the most convincing arguments, the most striking presentations of truth, the most felicitous illustrations, will be of little avail, if there is even a suspicion on the part of our hearers, that though