

source of strength and blessing in the history of very many congregations..

3. Another feature of strength in our polity is a *plurality of elders in every congregation*. The reason why our church is called Presbyterian, is because it is governed by elders, and the word Presbyterian is an anglicized form of the Greek word *presbuteros*, meaning an elder. In our church, the spiritual interests of a congregation are not entrusted to the care of one man, but to several, whose duty it is to co-operate with the minister, or elder, who labors in word and doctrine. In the multitude of counsellors there is safety, and therefore the interests of Christ's church can be better promoted when there are several men of piety, wisdom and prudence to take counsel with the minister for the welfare of the flock. The men thus chosen by the people are called ruling elders, and through them a bond of union is established between the pastor and the people. The importance of the elder's office can not be over-estimated. By the co-operation of the elders, the minister's hands are strengthened, and the labor of overseeing the congregation is now efficiently performed. In large congregations especially do we see the benefits arising to the flock in having a plurality of elders to overtake the work that ought to be done. The elders who bear rule, and who thus share the responsibility of governing the church, have done noble service and are still to be numbered amongst the most faithful of the servants of the Lord.

(4.) Again, *the principle of representation by which the Church is made to feel its unity* must be considered as a feature of our strength. The points to which we have already referred, although important, make no provision for the binding of congregations into a visible unit. Unity is strength in every department of secular life, and church life and work is no exception in this respect. Here too unity is strength. Isolated congregations may be a light in their own localities, but when aggressive work is entered upon, in fighting the giant evils or in the work of evangelizing the world, then unity is essential to the achievement of success. And such a unity is obtained under the Presbyterian polity, that it is possible and practicable for one whole church to act in concert in furthering the interests of the church at home and in sending the truth abroad.

This unity is obtained by the principle of representation. The first link in the chain of unity is formed by the Presbytery. The Presbytery is a union by representation of all the congregations within certain limits. For example, the Presbytery of Quebec comprises all