

character; but no storekeeper would dream of inviting all his customers to his private apartments. At the basis of all friendship, there must be, first, confidence, then congeniality. Two men may trust each other, as honest men, as Christian men; but they may hardly be capable of sustaining a conversation for fifteen minutes, because they are uncongenial,—their minds revolve in different orbits, which rarely intersect each other. There are some persons attending church,—and God forbid that we should drive them away!—in whose character and conduct there are things so doubtful,—or whose manners and habits are so repelling,—as to make personal association with them very difficult, if not impossible.

It is often supposed, that the difference between the rich and the poor is a great barrier to sociality. But this difficulty is, to say the least, very greatly exaggerated. In this country, society is not laid off into separate strata as distinctly as in the fatherland. The poor are more independent; the rich have to work for themselves. It is a great mistake for any person in humble circumstances to think, that if he were richer, he would be sure to have society to which he has no access now. All rich people do not associate together. There are the reserved, and the uncongenial, and the dubious among them, as well as in other classes. This is a delicate subject, upon which we will not enlarge. In general, let it be said, that if each one will bestow his chief attention on showing social kindness to those poorer, instead of claiming it from those richer than himself, nine-tenths of the complaints on this score will be heard no more.

In fact, this whole question is covered by the Scriptural proverb, "A man that hath friends will *show himself friendly*." We would say to all complainers, come into the church to *give*, as well as to *get*. Be a friend, and you will *have* friends. Do not wait to have all friendship brought to you; carry it to others. If a stranger in the church, do not expect to be courted only; make advances towards sociality yourself. Many will be prepared to welcome you, if they can feel that they are not intruders. Do not cherish too large expectations; if you can have a little circle of near friends, some half-dozen or so, be thankful for so much, and you may have still more. Remember that friendship is a plant that requires *time* to grow. Receive and return with ready kindness any attention shown to you. Throw yourselves heartily into the worship and work of the church. Do not be self-seeking. Love the brethren, and go about doing good. Being this, and living thus, friends will be drawn to you by a magnetism sure and irresistible.

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"My burden is light," said the blessed Redeemer. Light burden indeed, which carries him that bears it. I have looked through all nature for a resemblance of this, and I seem to find a shadow of it in the wings of a bird, which are indeed borne by the creature, and yet support her flight towards heaven."—*Bernard*.

If God permits sin, he never sanctions it: it is always and everywhere the abominable thing which he hates.