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ELEMENTS OF WEAKNESS AND OF STRENGTH
IN CONGREGATIONS.

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THE truth is, — and it is one which can hardly be too strongly asserted or deeply felt, — *it is, in most instances, feeble Christians that make feeble churches*; and it is energetic Christians — let them be rich or poor, and let the number at first be many or few — that constitute strong ones. It is not money that gives strength, but ready hands and warm hearts and willing minds. It is not the want of money which produces weakness so much as a want of disposition to use it. There is a great difference in parishes* with respect to their pecuniary ability, no doubt; but there are probably very few parishes, if they were willing to retrench a very little from their luxuries and superfluities, — for which they would be the better and not the worse, — that would not be able to contribute for religious objects twice as much as they do. The ear-

* The term parish here has no geographical meaning. It is quite commonly used in New England as an equivalent for congregation or worshiping society. — Ed. L. C.