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"IF I FORGET THEE, O JERUSALEM! LET MY RIGHT HAND FORGET ITS CUNNING."—Ps. 137: 5.

### CHURCH BUILDING.

AMONG the many duties that devolve upon the Christian pastor and his helpers in all good work, it is somewhat difficult to determine which is of the most importance, and which of all others demands the largest share of attention. There are public duties that cannot be neglected—duties which as citizens they should discharge for the general good of the community in which they reside; duties to organizations outside the church, but which in the end may be her most useful auxiliaries. There are also duties to the church at large—the originating and management of schemes for the education of her youth, the training of her ministry, the maintenance and spread of Gospel ordinances among her own people, and the diffusion of Christianity abroad. But prominent among the most important, we would place those of *friendly recognition and visitation*.

Plain and simple as these duties may appear, the neglect of them cannot be compensated for by the most thoroughly organized plans of usefulness that may be established to carry on congregational work. Their performance betokens a feeling of attachment; but the most zealous efforts to create an interest in Christian work, apart from these, are more like the simple working of machinery. Our Saviour did not so much attract by the grandeur of His schemes,

as by the power of His love; and we cannot expect His followers to improve upon His example. It is only occasionally that an illustration is seen by the listless Christian, but to the zealous, thorough worker, cases are met with frequently, that serve to give importance to the duties we have named. "If any one had taken hold of me *then*," was the reply of a young man, when being urged to consider the duty of confessing Christ at His table. He had in his youth been trained to have a careful regard for the ordinances of religion, attended Sabbath services regularly, and at one time found a new delight in the sacred services of the sanctuary, and experienced the need of a Saviour. But, like many youths, he was timid, doubtful of himself, and lacked the courage to make known his thoughts. Fatherless, there was none in whom he had sufficient confidence to state his case to; although brought up in the church, it seemed to him as if "no man cared for his soul," for no one ever manifested a disposition to speak to him on such a subject. By degrees a spirit of indifference crept over him, the good impressions wore away, a feeling of isolation even in the society of church members was sadly felt, and gradually he slipped out of the sanctuary; still the matter caused no concern, and the congregation lost his company. This is one single fact out of many that might be