

ing witness against the unfaithfulness of God's professing people. He is said to be a benefactor of his race who causes a blade of grass to grow where none was seen before ; but the professed follower of Jesus, whose feet are not in the way that leads to the house of prayer as often as would prevent the grass from growing and flourishing therein, is far from deserving any such appellation. Would that none were able to point to a single church that does not attend to the Apostolic injunction, " Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together, as the manner of some is."

The weak and destitute churches have an important relationship to each other. Hence their second duty is as plain as the first. They should *help* each other. In order to do this they should associate with one or more, that they may be able to sustain the preaching of the Word and the ordinances of the Gospel, and by all means, as far as practicable, let this union be composed of churches contiguous to each other. Very much is lost to us as a denomination for the want of proper grouping of our smaller and feeble churches. From the conduct of some it would appear as though in this matter, " Distance lends enchantment to the view," and seems to furnish an argument of affiliation, as they stretch out their arms over the nearest in order to grasp those that are more remote. Is this right? Would it be regarded as a wise policy for farmers or business men to pursue? Shall man regard his fellow, who is far removed from him, to the detriment or neglect of his nearest neighbour? Shall Amherst and Onslow, or Advocate and Wallace unite to form an Agricultural Society as though there were no farming districts intervening? No one ever heard of such a thing. Truly, in these matters, " The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." We fear that our churches are drifting into a policy of separation and isolation. There is an evident want of order and harmony. Churches that should be one in their work for God become separated ; the stronger provide for themselves, the weaker are unable to do so, and hence, according to the law of nature, *but in contradiction to the law of grace*, go to the wall. They yield to discouragement, cease effort, and die. " Brethren these things ought not so to be." For such a state of things ministers may be to blame ; but then again they may not ; who shall judge? They are often put to their wits end to know how to provide for their families. Churches that employ a pastor disagree, one wishes for a change, the other is satisfied, and retains his services ; and the poor man goes elsewhere to seek a field in the place of the one he has lost. And what is the result to the church which thus, by its own act, becomes pastorless? If there is no other church in the neighbourhood that is able and willing to unite therewith, it will probably be some time without an under-shepherd, the sheep will be scattered, the lambs left to wander, the general interests of the church will be neglected, its aggressive work will cease, and happy will it be for it if the evil of frequent change of pastor does not become chronic, until pastors whose reputations are