

afraid or unwilling to stand by their rights
 too from the fearful results to which
 they may have been given them & the minister
 are hastening us. You have some work, let other
 administer. Do the same
 & the deep, silent, wide
 spread palanoy of the
 ministry as a class
 that now obtains may
 be done away. I have
 had serious thoughts of
 addressing an appeal
 to the churches & ministers
 on the subject. It
 nearly out the prints
 expressed in my reply
 to it. It is what I think
 you are of it? Suppose
 you think of the thing
 should be drafted by
 signed by as many as
 you can get, as we could get,
 at any rate. It is so.

46
 It is time that brethren in the ministry
 who are congregationalists, should speak
 out in resistance to the tendency abroad
 among the clergy to grasp after power
 by including in Pastoral Rights, what
 are not pastoral rights. I believe in
 & love the office of the ministry, but I
 will not allow my regard to the office
 induce me to wink at or sanction an
 abuse of the office by its incumbents. On
 the contrary, my regard to the Office
 & my anxiety to secure to it its legit-
 imate influence, is the very reason
 for withstanding all abuse of it, &
 encroachments under sanction

of it, on the rights of the people.

And here let me say, that my agency brings me into contact generally with the laity, & especially that portion of the laity who feel most aggrieved by the positions taken by the Gen. Ass. of Mass. & Ct., & I tell you what I know when I assure you that those attempts to claim for the clergy rights which are not theirs are doing more, infinitely more to unhinge their confidence in the Christian ministry, as an institution, than all that Garrison & the Quakers all together ever have or can say. The people see, what is fact, that it is an encroachment on their rights, indicating a disposition to "lord it over God's heritage", & they are at once thrown into the attitude of suspicion & jealousy. They find the ministry banding together, in General & District Ass. in an encroachment on their rights

If they don't know what to make of it.
The ministry have made issue with them
& they feel constrained to join issue in
return. And rely upon it they will
do it. Indeed they have done it, & in
some cases quite too effectually, for they
have even been driven to the other ex-
-treme & done, in some cases, what
- was perhaps a violation of pastoral
rights, at least of Christian propriety. And
I confess I tremble when I look abroad
& see the indications there are that
the ministry & the people will join issue
on the general question of their respec-
-tive rights. Such a collision, will not
indeed annihilate the ministerial office,
but triumph as the people will & crush in
any such contest, it will annihilate the
usefulness if not the employment of the
present incumbents. How such a res-
-ult is to be prevented I know not,
except it be, by those who are in fact,
true congregationalists standing out not
only in vindication of our own but of
the people's rights also. Let the people see
that there are ministers who are not.

