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MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

A few years ago, the churches generally trations of the Word., were much exercised with fears respecting an adequate supply for the pulpit. But that difficulty, in answer to prayer, has been removed. Applicants for the position are numerous in the present day.

But there will soon be another ecclesiastical drought, unless those who have entered upon the arduous work are scripturally and righteously remunerated for their services.

God will not incline the hearts of young men to enter the ministry, unless he foresees that the churches will give them bread and butter to eat.

An impoverished clergyman, preaching to rich saints and sinners, is a disgrace to Christianity. Idolatry would be ashamed to have such priests.

We plead not for exorbitant salaries, like government officials, but for a generous supply of the necessaries and conveniences of life.-something for the higher education of our children, and a small surplus for a rainy day.

in order to this, the sum in dollars need not exceed three units, where a wellfurnished parsonage is provided by the people.

An economical family, in connection least, will have the comforts referred to, and something to spare, if the whole allowance approaches near one thousand dollars. But how rarely is this the case !

During the greater part of the existpreacher was \$650, exclusive of the chil-They number in our Conference twenty. two, while those receiving grants from the Missionary Board are fifty-eight. On these 58 stations there are 44 married preachers, who must suffer a loss this year of \$11,000, on the \$750 basis, or on the \$650 arrangement, a loss of \$6000. This is a serious loss to contemplate, and there is only one way to prevent the preachers from realizing it, namely, increasing the circuit receipts. And this ought to be done. It can be done. An increase of 25 per cent. on circuit receipts would meet the difficulty.

anywhere what it ought to be. There may be individual cases quite up to the correct standard, but generally it is not so.

There have been, of late, a good many hints and suggestions, wise and unwise, about raising our mission stations into independent circuits, and although, Mr. Editor, you have very gracefully sought the privilege of pronouncing the benediction on that agitation, yet, as we sometimes sing a verse or two after the benediction, you will allow a short strain in the minor key, which may be soothing to all, and perhaps awaken songs in the jubilant major.

I believe that, in proportion to their number and means, the mission stations in this Conference are doing quite as well as the independant circuits. Having occupied both classes of appointments, I speak from personal knowledge.

And yet, I think that some of the missions ought at once to assume an independent position. Whether our people will come up to the mark or no, the preachers are obliged to come to it-

Let me illustrate, by a statement or two, respecting our present circuit. Year before last, this station raised \$500 circuit receipts, and on that basis the grant from the Missionary Board was \$122, which added to \$565, raised last year on the circuit, gave the incumbent a salary of \$687. This year the grant is \$32, which, with last year's circuit receipts, will give a salary of only \$597. But we shall make a strenuous effort to raise, at least, \$100 more than last year, which will place the circuit, though not the minister, in an independent position.

There is a circuit in the Truro District which, until recently, had a young man; but when a married man was sent to them, the Stewards at once resolved to increase their subscriptions. One of the largest givers said-"We must double our payments," and accordingly put down \$30 instead of the former \$15; others following the example, the circuit made a very good showing at the next Confer-

This is the only way to meet the exigencies of our work. And it must be knowledge. Having confidence in it, and done, or those circuits, which were once knowing that it possesses valuable mediportions of a large circuit, but now, in cal properties, I freely use it in my daily order to have more preaching, are separt- practice and with unbounded success. As ed, will have to connect themselves with an expectorant it is most certainly far the parent body as formerly. Better do ahead of any preparation I have ever yet with less preaching, than starve the min- known."

ister. Better still, to raise the means and continue to have the regular minis-

There are, on every hand, pleasing evidences of progress in the right direction. We shall survive the present financial ordeal, and come out all right in the end-But if some kind Providence would send relief this year, many hearts would be gladdened. There are brethren who, notwithstanding the most rigid economy, will not be able, at the end of the Methodistic year, to square accounts with their creditors.

I think, Mr. Editor, that some good will result from the cautious agitation and ventilation of this important subject.

There are yet some in our congregations, and among our neighbours, who think that all the financial deficiencies of Methodist preachers are made up by the mysterious funds of the Conference.

Maitland, March, 1878.

A WALL, O LORD, AROUND US BUILD.

G. O. H.

It was a dreary November evening in the year 1830, the same year in which the brave and pious King of Sweden, Gustavus Adolphus, had landed on the German coast, to help his brethren in the new with Methodism, in country places, at | faith, the German Protestants, to defend them against the Catholic legions, when, under their leader, the cruel and heartless Tilly, the destroyer of Magdenburg, had pressed them hard and threatened to overwhelm them. Twelve long years already ance of the Eastern British American had this fearful religious war raged Conference, the fixed salary of a married | throughout Germany. The soil was soaked with the blood of the slain; the fields dren's fund. But of late years that sum devastated, the towns depopulated, and has been increased \$100. The Conference | the whole country sighed and mouned unhas said we may have it, if we can get it; der the burdens of war. The chronicles but there is the difficulty. The few cir- of those times are filed with the sad cuits that are able and willing to meet stories of atrocities and barbarities comthe Conference engagement, appear not mitted by the armies on both sides on the list of our mission stations, but against the unfortunate inhabitants; have assumed an independent position. wherever those armies passed they left a

On this November evening there sat an old woman in a farmhouse on the outskirts of a Saxon village. Her son, a young man of about twenty years had just brought home the news of a rumor that had spread in the village, that a detachment of Spanish troops was approaching, and would probably pass through the village during the night. Terror and anxiety reigned. The young man be sought his mother to take refuge in the mountains. But she remonstrated that they were in God's protection, and that if he willed it so they would be saved; and amount of giving to the cause of God is exhorted him to seek consolation in

> She lighted the lamp, and took ber prayer-book and began to sing her favorite hymn, "A wall O Lord around us build." At this the son revolted, telling his mother that by her foolish singing, and by the light of her lamp, she would certainly show the way to their house and uselessly expose themselves. But she persevered, and continued to sing, "A wall O Lord, around us build."

The on grew angry and scolded his mother. "How can the Lord build a wall around us? Stop that nonsense, mother; the time for miracles is past."

" The Lord, can, if he will," she quietly answered, and continued to sing and to pray through the whole long night, "A wall O Lord, around us build."

When the morning broke the son took courage and went to the door; but when he tried to open it he found that it would not give way. A heavy snowdrift had obstructed it and perfectly buried the house, concealed it from the enemies, who, during the night had passed through the village, carrying plunder and murder into almost every house.

And so did the Lord "a wall around them build .- A Tale of the Thirty Years War, Retold by Alex. Parke.

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