

the instrumentality of the truth, and resulting in the turning of many from sin to God, and in their bringing forth the fruits of the Spirit, *whose work is it?* Compare Matt. 12: 22-33. Beware of opposing it in word or deed, lest haply ye be found fighting against God. Beware even of simply ignoring it. Remember that Meroz was cursed not for doing wrong, but for doing nothing; he fought not against God, but he came not up to His help. The work is great, let all help in it—every believer, and not the minister alone. "Let him that heareth, say come." And let us help each other. The Master's great estate has many fields. Not equally ripe is the harvest in all. When, therefore, the grain is dropping in some, let the husbandman in charge of the others, hasten to aid their overwrought brethren, assured that meanwhile the sun will not forget to shine on their own fields. Presently *their* reaping time will come too, and then *their* brethren will be moveable and more ready to give them needed help. Caution is needed? Yes, doubtless, but there is such a thing as being so cautious as to accomplish nothing.

The true way is to work with all our might, use truth as our instrument, and in earnest, believing prayer, commit the whole matter to God, for guidance as well as for success. So, too, where the great work has not yet visibly begun, let all be earnestly praying for it. If earthly fathers will not give a stone, a serpent, or a scorpion, in answer to their children's cry for food, still less will our Heavenly Father send us what would injure us when we pray for His Spirit. And let us seek to put away from us whatever would hinder Him from visiting us.

J. F. C.

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## Articles Selected.

### Ministers' Stipends in the Church of Scotland.

The following interesting analysis of the Parliamentary Returns as to ministers' stipends in the Church of Scotland has been given by one of the daily newspapers:—

The return contains only the parishes in which the stipend is paid by means of teinds; and, consequently, does not embrace either the town charges, which are paid out of town funds, or the *quoad sacra* churches. The number of ministerial charges in the return is 906, of which 51 are blanks, the stipends not

being given. The *quoad sacra* parishes, not included, number 203. The town parishes amount to 56 in all, of which about 10 are included, as paid by teinds. A considerable amount of interest attaches in these days to the pecuniary position of the clergy, and it may be worth a little trouble to note some of the prominent facts.

Of the 855 charges returned, the average value, if we include the estimated rental of the manse, is £340; if we exclude that, it is £314, the manse thus averaging £26. Still, excluding the manse, there are 123 charges returned as worth less than £200 a year; and only 38 as worth more than £500. Neither of these, however, fairly represents the Church. The omission of the *quoad sacra* parishes reduces the number of the former, and, to a less extent, the latter also; while the omission of the 46 town parishes, containing 11 Edinburgh churches with more than £500, materially affects the latter. It happens also that in the blanks three of the largest livings in the Church appear—North and South Leith and Govan. We should be inclined to estimate that there are 200 livings in the Church not worth more than £200 a year, some having and some not having a manse; and probably 65 having more than £500 a year. Only one charge in the Church (including manse) dips down below £150, but several touch £160; and only one of those reported rises above £1000, though half-a-dozen of these returned, and several which are not, border on either side of £800.

On the whole, the livings are better than have been supposed; and though no little hardship must be experienced in some parishes where the size of the stipend does not bear due comparison with that of the family, yet an average country living in the Established Church, even yet, must be not a bad harbour of refuge from the stormy world. The number of communicants returned to Parliament last year was, if we remember aright, 460,000; and the number of adherents of all ages was estimated at about 1,400,000. Taking the present return, and estimating for the 249 parishes not included, the pastoral supervision of the Established Church is secured at a cost of £355,904, which, to reduce