

will merge into ours. Indeed the process of assimilation is already visible. We are not perfect, but are substantially right, and with some modifications, the Church of the Millennium shall have all the main features of ours. Should we then be contented to exist as a sect, be contented with our present selfish and narrow mode of procedure, that cripples our energies and makes all our limbs leprous? Shall we be untrue to our past glorious history, to the genius of our government, and to our future destiny? The evil of a Presbytery's Home Mission Fund for the efficient working of our Home Mission Field was felt years ago. Some Presbyteries had almost no Mission Field, and consequently had little to raise, yet were rich; and others had greatly more work to do than their means would allow them. To meet the emergencies of the case, a Central Fund was established. More means have since been forthcoming, more work has been done, and better done than before. But it is unfair to this Fund, unfair to its proper work, unfair to the best interests of the Church, to saddle weak congregations on it. There ought to be a separate fund for these. For want of it, for want of a General Sustentation Fund, there is a certain itch for change among our ministers in general, and among the ministers of these charges in particular. They will not remain in such congregations longer than they can make a change for the better; will even leave before they see any such prospect, to escape being lectured by the Committee on the one hand, or starved by the parsimony or poverty of the people on the other. Our Synod has notoriously a large number of vacant congregations, in consequence. Like the old countries of Europe, where ruined castles and abbeys meet us at every step, many of our congregations are crumbling away, and our churches falling into dilapidation without having the benefit of the mantling ivy to conceal their ruins, and make them picturesque beneath a perennial verdure. We want to rebuild the walls of our Zion, by establishing our Church so firmly everywhere that it shall not be moved.

Our present system acts injuriously in another way, by drafting our most talented men into the cities where the people are wealthy; by killing what talent there may be in our country ministers, from their being unable to purchase the proper literature, and having resort to many expedients to eke out a living altogether unbecoming the dignity of the profession. We are on the royal road—like our brethren in the United States—to have many of our charges constantly vacant, and to have our ministers' intellects dwarfed, and to induce them to turn their attention to some secular calling whenever a better opportunity presents itself. What a sad spectacle an ill-paid ministry presents! Ministers without respect, the Church without influence, and religious excitement generated as a means of procuring money. To this may be added vender of medicines, of sewing machines, or agent for an endless variety of things. Now, it is often more important to have an efficient minister in a country than in a city charge. It may not have one-fourth of the members, or raise one-fourth of the money; but if a wealthy city congregation suffer by an inefficient minister, the others will benefit, and the Church itself will suffer little if any loss. Whereas, if many of our country congregations have an inefficient one, not only does that congregation sink, but a district or whole county may be lost to the Church. As the bravest soldiers and most skilful generals are sent to the post of danger, which is the post of honour, so we should have some of our very best men in our outlying districts. They have a cause to build up, and not a congregation merely to keep together; and as they do more real work for the Church than any other, they should be properly supported, that they may have no fear of being shipwrecked on the rocks of poverty. We cannot go in and possess the land, if our ministers do not feel their footing secure, if they are kept on the *qui vive* of change. To have our pulpits filled with the very best men that our Church can supply, and to do the work thoroughly that the Lord has put into our hands, we must establish such a Fund.

IV. SOME OF THE BENEFICIAL RESULTS THAT WILL FOLLOW.

1. It will assure the parents of pious and talented sons that there will be no fear of their starving in the ministry. No one could scout more than I would