

supplied with the means of meeting the increased cost of living, if the members of our churches themselves feel that the expenses of their own households are becoming heavier, and that they have to pay more than before, for the same amount of work, to labourers, and mechanics, and professional men, who can fail to see that it is only justice that their ministers should in like manner be placed by them in circumstances which will enable them to bear the additional burden imposed on them equally with others.

Then further, the inadequate support generally provided for the ministers of our church has no doubt a very close connexion with a fact which has for some time been forcing itself upon the serious notice of all the friends of truth—we mean the diminished number of Theological Students—of young men looking forward to the ministry as their life-work.

This is observable not only in some, but in all churches. No one can read the statistics which are yearly furnished by them without being convinced of it. It is fitted to awaken deep concern, and has done so in the minds of all who love the cause of Christ. Various reasons have been assigned, as accounting for it. But whatever truth there may be in other causes, we are very strongly impressed with the conviction that one main reason is found in what we have stated, viz., the insufficient incomes which are generally afforded to ministers. Young men of talent and energy of character, looking around them, and observing that the ministers of the different churches are often in straits and difficulties, and unable to provide for themselves what they feel would be needful for the right and conscientious discharge of their duty, as well as for their families a suitable education, have thus at once a stumbling block, and hindrance put in the way of their entering into the ministry. Every converted young man is not bound to give himself to the ministry. If he feels that he has a special call from the Lord to do so, or to go forth as a missionary to the heathen, he will obey that call, whatever hardships or dangers, or trials he may have to undergo. He will have the spirit of the apostle, when he said, "I will very gladly spend and be spent for you, though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved." But every young convert of ability and zeal in the cause of Christ, does not feel himself thus summoned to the ministry, though summoned of course, to consecrate himself to the Lord. And as there are many openings in the commercial world, and in all professions, for the attainment of a comfortable livelihood, or more than that, young men may choose, and they do choose such employment as will furnish them with the means of maintaining themselves and their families without being constantly straitened—and in which they may have at the same time the opportunity and the ability to do service by divine grace, for the cause of Christ.

It is therefore for the members of the church to consider in their own consciences and in the sight of God, whether by their stinted support in many cases of ministers of the gospel—by their failure to avail themselves of a high privilege, and to discharge an incumbent duty, they are not contributing to the fact, which all churches have to deplore—the limited number of those who are devoting themselves to the work of preachers of the glorious gospel of the blessed God. If any man wants wealth, or affluence, he will not enter the ministry for it. It is not there he will find it. But in the ministry, he has a right to expect, and all who are filled with knowledge and judgment from on high will feel that the people are bound, and should consider it their privilege to afford a maintenance for himself and his family, suited to the position and the sphere which he occupies.

Then again, it may be that the subject with which we are dealing, may be the occasion of shutting the windows of heaven, and preventing a