

it is that which will more than any thing else tend to draw men into the ranks of the ministry.

True we have difficulties to contend with. True that the densely populated and luxurious provinces of Asia Minor and Greece were able without difficulty to raise a large fund, even among christians who were not all of the wealthier class, a fund larger than we can expect or hope to raise. True likewise is it now, that we aim not at making a fund so large and provision so ample, as to excite the cupidity of unworthy candidates for the ministry, (however true it seems to be that too small is far worse than too liberal support, even as regards the character of the clergy, since the toils and privations of a missionary life are of themselves enough to deter the self-indulgent and careless from entering on them.) True also that among the claims of rival sects and parties, men have arrived at the strange conclusion, that instead of meeting the difficulty they will avoid it; that the poor are to preach to themselves; that in the difficulty of reconciling conflicting claims, no public provision shall be made for the religious instruction of the people. Let us meet the difficulty as christians, and as men who feel their privileges as such. Let us try to feel that one of the blessings of being strong, is to be able to "bear the infirmities of the weak," (Rom. xvi.,) fulfilling the law of Christ, to bear the burden of others.

I have spoken to you this evening on the duty of supporting the clergy, because the subject is that which has been commended to us as the one which should enrage our thoughts on this thanksgiving day. Any one who knows the difference which God's mercy in vouchsafing an abundant harvest has produced in this country will be anxious to shew his thankfulness in a real practical way. Consider too that the clergy are those who have suffered more perhaps than others by the late distress, since the loss of a small proportion of the slender pittance which the congregation is able to raise, is in many cases productive of the greatest distress. Let me in conclusion read to