

specially observed for thanksgiving to God. But we hope there will be something more—some practical token of gratitude for the many mercies which we are receiving. Mere lip service God will not regard. Mere words or outward expressions, either of repentance or gratitude, are without value: and we should therefore go beyond mere words, and seek to honour the Lord with our substance, and with the first fruits of all our increase. We could point out to our people, whose barns are filled with plenty, and whose worldly business is prospering, several practical ways of manifesting their gratitude to God for the mercies of the season. They might add to their annual contribution, for the stipend of the minister. It is remarkable that there is very little increase in this respect. We could name congregations, the membership of which has been doubled in the course of some years, but there has been no increase of stipend. We could point to individuals, who in the course of years have become really rich, but who still continue to give the same small sum with which they began. This ought not to be. The Scripture rule is that people give *as God hath prospered them*. If our members then would show true gratitude, let them give it a practical form in the direction we have mentioned. There are also other important objects which genuine gratitude should prompt them liberally to sustain. There are our mission operations, both Home and Foreign—there is our College, without which, our missionary operations cannot be extended or even sustained—these objects in a season of comparative plenty and prosperity, should meet with a larger than ordinary measure of liberality. There is also the object which is appointed to be brought before the congregations of the church in the course of the present month—the fund for Ministers' Widows and Orphans, and for Aged and Infirm Ministers. When it is borne in mind that the average stipend throughout the church is only about, \$510, no arrangement will appear necessary for the purpose of urging the object referred to. The wonder is not that ministers cannot provide for old age, or for their families, but how it is possible to live, in the style in which their people expect them to live, on a stipend of five hundred dollars. Most of them require to keep a horse to enable them to discharge their duties among their people. This takes at once \$100 or \$120 of the small stipend. The matter is not considered as it should be, by the office-bearers and members of the church. Ministers feel delicacy, too great delicacy, in touching the matter in presence of their people. But in some way or other they must be induced to look at it. And were their attention once gained, we feel convinced that they would not let matters go on as they have been doing in most congregations, but would feel constrained in view of their obligations as well as of their increasing means, to add largely to their contributions for the support of the work of God, encouraged by the assurance that the liberal soul shall be made fat, and that they who water others shall be watered themselves.

THE WORD OF GOD.

There is at present an evident disposition in many quarters, to call in question the full inspiration of the Word of God. This disposition is met and fostered by the audacious tone of many works, possessing high claims to learning, research, and ability, in which the infallibility and authority of the scriptures