

not only a share but a full and sufficient share according to their needs without grudge, and without stint, of the blessings which through their means God's people are enabled to enjoy.

Neither are the words of the text unimportant when considered in the connexion in which they occur in the epistle from which the text is taken.* It is applied to illustrate the Apostle's rule as to the payment of presbyters. "Let the elders that rule well," says the Apostle, "be counted worthy of double honour;" that is as it probably means, be counted worthy of *double*, *pay*, "for honouring more often means, honouring with the substance" in the New Testament, than any thing else. And the next verse, "for the Scripture saith, thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn, and the labourer is worthy of his reward," shows that the reference is not to respect or good esteem merely, but to pecuniary recompence of work.

You will remember how our Lord in rebuking the Pharisees for their want of filial affection, made the commandment to "*honour thy father and thy mother*" include the support of them when aged and infirm. And there is hardly one place if there be one in the New Testament where *honouring* does not carry with it the notion of pecuniary benefit. Observe too one passage of scripture, a few verses before, where, when prescribing what widows should be eligible to a share in the Church's fund, the Apostle uses a similar expression, "*honour widows that are widows indeed*," that is, let their allowance be liberal. Those who have used hospitality, those who have ministered to saints, and those who fulfilling these conditions have no sons or near connexions to undertake their support, those when of proper age were to be admitted into the list of the Church's pensioners and to be liberally provided for, and in this way *honoured*. I mention these points not merely

* For this view of the text quoted here, and several other illustrations of the management of the funds in the early Church, I am indebted to the works of the late Professor Blunt.