

the Legislature of Ontario to appoint our town councillors, as it is for a bishop or conference to say who is to be minister of this church or that. None of our congregations are compelled to accept a minister that somebody else chooses to send, and be thankful. Every one of our settled ministers has been the people's choice. And when they asked him to settle amongst them, they promised him "due subsistence in the Lord." It is cruel, then, not to speak of the dishonesty of the thing, in any congregation, to ask a man to be its minister, and solemnly promise to give him due maintenance, and then to think no more of the promise given. Yet there are always such promise breakers in every congregation, to whom we would say, in the words of the Preacher, "When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it, for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldst not vow than that thou shouldst vow and not pay." We would ask any man who is able to earn a living, and who only gives a dollar a-year to support his minister, if he thinks he is doing his duty towards fulfilling his solemn promise. A dollar a-year is scarcely two cents a-week. Although each member in a congregation were to give \$4 a-year, which is about $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents a-week, no one would be impoverished by it. Yet $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents a-week per member, from a congregation of 160 members, would give the minister a salary of \$624 per annum. Surely it is from want of thought or from want of management that people do not fulfil their promises to their ministers. For no one in a country like ours could say that he was overtaxed for the preaching of the Gospel, although he had to give 10 cents a-week for its support. Many Church members spend the double of this every week in treating at the bar, and never think more of it; but when it comes to be paid out for preaching, it is a clear loss. Ten cents a-week for preaching would ruin them entirely! When the matter is reduced to figures, and the rule of three brought to bear upon it, it ought to make many a congregation blush to think that it is in arrears of salary with its minister. Verily the arithmetic of Gospel support should be taught in our common schools, for there is a sad deficiency of knowledge regarding it. And a lesson occasionally on keeping promises would also have a salutary effect.

3. *Ministers have a right to expect an adequate support from the teachings of God's word.* From the day that Abel led the firstlings of his flock to the altar, God has required his worshippers to support the Church with their offerings. By the Mosaic law every worshipping Israelite had to give the tenth of his income to the Church. Some of you would no doubt consider it hard if, after you had sold your grain, you had to give the tenth of your receipts to the cause of God. You would find it more than 10 cents a-week; yet this is what God asked of his ancient Church. And there are many learned men who maintain that this is required still. Were it only forthcoming, then the Church might arise, shake herself from the dust and sing,

"O'er the gloomy hills of darkness,
Look, my soul, be still and gaze;
All the promises do travail
With a glorious day of grace;
Blessed jubilee,
Let the glorious morning dawn."

The New Testament rule of liberality is to give "as God has prospered you." But how few there are who make this the standard of their giving. Many never think, when they have had good crops, or a prosperous business, that their prosperity has come from God, and that according to His own