

duty referred to ; and no small responsibility is incurred by those who undertake it. It is not to be doubted, however, that much good of a very high order might be accomplished in this way ; and if there be responsibility on one side, there is on the other side also—both in acting and in not acting. Some have been eminently successful in seeking out youths and urging and aiding them forward to the work of the ministry, and have, in their own most solemn hour, had unspeakable comfort in reflecting on the result ; and have seen reason to bless God, for it, as not the least important service he had honoured them to perform for the welfare of His Church and the glory of his name. We hope to be excused for thus alluding to what is doubtless a matter of some delicacy, and perhaps scarcely within our province.

Passing these things, I must next notice a hindrance of a more gross and worldly nature, one which it is impossible to doubt, operates to a very great extent, and one which, though my own opinion respecting it were much less decided than it is, could in no wise be omitted, as it is publicly and privately pressed on us at all bands—assigned, indeed, a chief place in almost every thing one reads or hears either in official documents or remarks by individuals on the subject. Of course you have anticipated me, but what I refer to is the very slender and scanty provision generally made for the temporal support of the ministry. What could be regarded as adequate support, we are happily not called on at present to determine. We meet with but one opinion among persons whose judgment is worth regarding—an opinion common to religious and to worldly-minded men—viz., that the provision made for the ministry in this country and among ourselves in particular, is grievously deficient, and that, considering the whole case, the long and laborious course of preparatory study for the office—the position which public opinion absolutely compels a member to occupy in society—the remuneration afforded in other professions, and the almost absolute certainty which there is that any man who has the education, character, and measure of ability which are necessary to enable one to keep his place, as a minister would greatly benefit his worldly circumstances were he to betake himself to some secular employment, we say that considering all this, the wonder is, not that so few but that so many, can be induced to come forward and offer themselves for such ill-requited employment—not that so many but that so few, have abandoned it for some other pursuit.

We can bear the taunt sometimes cast at us, that, when ministers adopt such a strain of discourse, they, with all their lofty pretensions to piety and heavenly mindedness, place themselves very much on a level with the members of a trade adopting means, by combination or otherwise, for raising their wages. Observe only one remarkable point of contrast. What is more common in the case referred to, than to place obstacles in the way of apprentices being admitted ? What are we at present aiming at, but the removal of such obstacles ? What are we pleading for, but that existing barriers may be withdrawn so that greatly increased numbers may be induced to present themselves, who in the language of the shop, shall be our competitors and rivals ? We are anxious that the christian community should do, what in its own way, may tend to secure an adequate supply of workmen that need not be ashamed who shall undertake, and carry forward the most important of all services required by mankind, the keeping in operation that system of means divinely appointed, and absolutely essential for promoting their highest interests both in time and eternity. What we are saying, is not, If you fail to make better provision for the ministry, you act ungenerously and unjustly towards us who are already labouring in the service at once of Christ and yourselves, though that also is true. What we say and what every one must see to be a sober reality, is this, that if you so fail, you deprive yourselves and your families and your country of an agency beyond all others