

straitened; yet amidst them all bears a stout heart, and can talk of cheering his declining years with pleasant memories of departed days and duty done! But if we think for a moment of those of his brother ministers who, in like case, are not blessed with such a cheerful resignation and happy disposition, the necessity of a public fund for their support will be seen to be very urgent.

In a letter to a friend, he refers with gratitude to a New Year's gift which a few friends had sent him, and adds: "It would please me still better, however, to take my needful supplies from a public fund *yet to be* for aged and infirm ministers of our Church, after wearing out my iron frame, and exhausting my private resources, and burying my family, who meekly shared my privations and toils for nearly forty years. More than others, I think, do right-hearted ministers feel at home and at ease in the home that is made easy and cheerful by the honest wages of honest work. But failing in that luxury of declining years, I can thankfully stay and feed with Elijah at the brook, or go about doing good in the Master's work until He bids me stop and rest, and then to live, as He chose to live, on the voluntary hospitality of friends, and be buried as was He in a borrowed grave, if that alternative may be my allotment at last."

Every one will readily admit that those who wear away their lives in the endeavour to promote our interests—those which are the highest and the only enduring—are in justice entitled to be considered worthy of being secured from want. What servant who has served his earthly master faithfully through long years, is left by him to starve? And shall they who minister to us in spiritual things be deemed less worthy than they who serve in carnal things? Only fancy one being expected to be the most open handed in alms giving, the most hospitable, always decently dressed, upon forty pounds a year! Surely, such an one is *parson* rich indeed! What groom who has the care of horses would undertake the duty for \$3 a week? Not one where I reside for less than double the money. But here is one who has had the care of immortal souls, left to trust to Providence for life's sustenance, after having received throughout his ministry

a salary so inadequate that the only wonder seems to be how existence could have been supported. We certainly cannot wonder that nothing has been put by.

Nor is this neglect to provide for ministers to be attributed to any want of good feeling towards them on the part of those to whom they have ministered. For, to quote from the same letter: "I am heartily welcomed and delighted when permitted to visit the scenes of many self-denying labours whilst roughing it in the bush." As it is in his case, so it is with other faithful ministers. Their former congregations regard them with affectionate interest, and would willingly contribute to a fund which would benefit their old friends. And I believe that there will not be an unwilling mind in any to aid in supplying the disgraceful want, which now exists, of a fund for aged and infirm ministers of our Church, as referred to by my venerable friend, in one of the extracts from his letter which I have taken the liberty of quoting above.

I will only add that the subject should be brought forward at the first opportunity, and that the laymen of the church should give it their earnest consideration, for the proposition should emanate from them; and the result would be, no doubt, the production of a good scheme, which, if adopted and carried out, would wipe away a stain that now rests upon us who are listless and inert, when those who, if we did not leave an obvious duty unperformed, would be able to spend the evening of their days free from the gnawing cares and perplexing anxieties which follow hard upon the steps of penury. Of a truth may each poor but faithful minister say, "Tis not so well that I am poor: though many of the rich are damned."

A LAYMAN.

## Two Months in St. John's.

(Concluded.)

On entering the harbour, the building that will most readily catch the eye is the Roman Catholic Cathedral. Probably the Scotch Kirk presents the next best appearance. It is a plain but handsome, white, wooden building, seated