

MORAL ASPECTS, or, AS YOU VIEW IT.

If you look on a ploughed field in a sunny day of the spring or fall, when there is a light covering of snow on the ground, it will appear white or black, according as you view it. Face the north, and you see a black field: turn and face the south, and look at the north sides of the ridges, and lo! the field is white with snow. So, our moral aspects are changed by the light and position in which we view things.

There is an aspect from the pulpit which will make a matter look black, which appears white from the pew. Things viewed from the gorgeous churches and stately homes of our city congregations, are quite changed when seen from the humbler churches and residences in the country. A man with no resources farther than enough to supply his actual and immediate wants, will look on plans and possibilities very differently from one who has surplus funds at his disposal. This accounts for the wide difference in the opinions often advanced by different men. Let us advert to some of those things respecting which there is such a contrariety of opinions.

Ministers who receive *donation-visits* from their people, for the most part consider them to be an expression of kindness and good will; affording, in mixed congregations where there are many who have another minister of their own to support, an opportunity to show their kind feelings, and to make an acknowledgment that they are profiting by the services on which they occasionally attend, of one to whom they are not ecclesiastically allied. Moreover, it is commonly an expression on the part of the minister's own people, that he is loved and valued. They, having paid him the salary agreed on, desire to give additional proof of their appreciation of his services. Some churches like to make the season of their donation visit, a sort of festival for the congregation, when timely greetings can be exchanged, thus affording a pleasant change for a country church, where they have few meetings but those for religious services. At such times addresses from the ministers and others present form a part of the programme, affording opportunity to speak on the subject of the relative duty of pastor and people, and matters which do not seem so appropriate at any other time. Ministers who are recipients of these donations, commonly find such visits of great pecuniary advantage, supplying them with much that is useful, for which they must otherwise have paid money, together with some of that needful article itself, and occasionally a few ornamental articles to gratify the taste for the beautiful, which but for this would not have been afforded. We have seldom found a minister that received such visits who did not value them.

There is however another aspect of these parties. Those ministers who do *not* receive donation visits and are not likely to, and those people who do not give them, are for the most part unanimous in denouncing them as very bad things, and pity the poor ministers who are subjected to them. They have got on the black side of a donation visit, which happened somewhere not perhaps in the memory of any living person, about as much like a modern donation visit, as the modern Calvinism is like the hideous doctrine its enemies depict it to be.

"These donations," say they, "consist of a lot of cooked victuals which the people bring and eat up themselves, leaving the minister's family more of cakes and pies and trash than they can use while they are good, together with some tawdry articles of dress of little or no value, and all this to pay his salary." Such a description inflames their wrath. They wax indignant at