

great distance. This results from the two considerations, that the aid from home, on which we have too much leaned as on an endowment, is to be discontinued, and that we have now a greater number of Preachers than we ever had before—not more than we can employ, but more than we shall be able to pay, without increased contributions. The matter is very serious, and I beg to be excused for offering two or three plain, well-meant suggestions.

The Mission Committee have issued an Address on the subject. So far well. Better late than never. It is pleasant to see adversity producing its salutary fruits. The church ought always to have done its very utmost to sustain itself, and now it must do so, or go down. I hope every minister will endeavor to bring the address to bear impressively and effectively on his congregation, and, as far as possible, to promote the object. It appears from the Treasurer's accounts that several congregations, some of them old, and I hope able, have, for a number of years, contributed nothing at all to almost any of our Funds. I have often wondered how they considered themselves entitled to continued connection with a Presbyterian Church, and wondered more, how their ministers had the face to show themselves in Synod.

There are two sad facts in the case—sad singly, and doubly sad united. First, the times, as every one knows, are exceedingly bad. Many who wish well, really cannot contribute almost anything. And secondly, and worse, many of our congregations, I fear, have not been duly taught the duty of contributing for religious purposes. Numbers of the people were brought up in churches which did not require pecuniary support from their members, and the idea of that being a thing incumbent on christians was rather discountenanced. A lesson of that kind is very easily learnt, and such an impression once made, is not readily effaced. Then I believe it must be added that there is no part of ministerial duty which has been less faithfully performed in some portions of our church, than urging the people to honor the Lord with their substance and with the first fruits of their increase. These facts must be looked at, and a remedy immediately and vigorously applied. During the present season of depression, I hope that persons in easy circumstances will be disposed to make somewhat extra contributions, trusting that when better times arrive, their brethren in a humbler position will stand forward and take their full share of the burden. And without delay, some well considered, systematical scheme should be adopted in every congregation, and resolutely plied. Ministers, elders, managers, members, and adherents, male and female, young and old, should all be stimulated to put their hand to the work, and do what in them lies for maintaining and extending the preaching of the everlasting and glorious Gospel. That being honestly and zealously done, I, for one, could not doubt of complete success.

Many Ministers, I believe, feel the duty of asking contributions from their people a delicate one, and shrink from it accordingly. Some are even apprehensive lest harm, instead of good, might be the consequence. Now, my connection with the church has not been very short, and I never saw a bad effect produced by earnest, urgent pleading for funds, provided the duty was placed on a proper foundation, and pressed in a proper spirit and a proper manner. Men of any piety will stand a great deal if you