

In pleading the interests of this Society, there is no wish to hold out inducements to either the youth or age of men, that might allure them into the ministry from unworthy motives. It will be a sad day for our churches, should it ever come, when the ranks of their ministry will be recruited from considerations of respectability, ease, or pecuniary advantage. Love to Christ and souls, a desire to gather sinners about the Cross, and a distinct call from the Master, are the only legitimate incentives to this work. Those who are called to preach the Gospel, must turn their back upon all else, and devote themselves to this calling; and they must preach the Gospel if need be in reproach, want, and even at the expense of life itself. For this, we have the example of the Master, and the servant is not greater than his Lord, nor the sent, than the sender. But the call of Jesus to this special, this exclusive work, is often a call to poverty, to the scantiest sort of a living, even for the time when youth and strength permit work. This makes more imperative the duty of the churches to furnish aid, when through age and infirmity that meagre living can be no longer obtained. This duty is recognized by nearly all sections of God's people, and almost all denominations are making some provision for the old age, and infirmities of the men, who have given their life and strength to the work of the ministry. In some denominations a definite tax is imposed annually on both ministers and people for this purpose. From such a cause our polity shuts us out. Our people would resent it as an invasion of the liberty Christ has conferred, an unwarranted interference with the rights of the individual conscience. But surely the love of Christ should have more force, than the decrees of conferences and synods, and the constraining influence of that love, should bring us up to the measure of our duty to the men, who, now aged and helpless, have been the means in Christ's hand of the salvation of hundreds or thousands of souls, and who have planted many of the churches, in existence and prosperity, of which we rejoice to-day. That the Lord may care for them, help and comfort them in the time, when they most need His tender care, and stir up the hearts of his people to relieve their necessities is the earnest prayer of the Directors of this Society.

Respectfully submitted,

J. DEMPSEY, *Secretary.*