

tant matter? To this question we reply, 1, They ought strenuously and perseveringly to spare no pains, in public and in private, by their words, and by their example, in enlightening the minds of those over whom the Holy Ghost hath made them overseers, on the solemn obligation of their giving unto the Lord, as the Lord hath prospered them.—Whatever be the charges of worldly-mindedness that may be brought against them in the prosecution of such a work, whatever be the insinuations of selfishness that may be thrown out by not a few professing Christians, when Ministers exhort their flocks to redoubled effort and steady perseverance in such a cause, let them still hold on in the exercise of faith and prayer. Let them ever and anon appeal to the high warrant and authority they possess,—that, in adopting such a course, they are but following out the will and direction of Him, whose are the gold and the silver, and the cattle upon a thousand hills, and who is Head over all to his body the Church. Let them cite the preceptive intimations of God's lively oracles on this subject, and dwell on the high prominence it there holds. Let them point to the conduct of the Apostles, and especially to the Great Apostle of the Gentiles. No one will charge Paul with selfishness, and yet how frequently, and with what earnestness, does he urge the Churches he addressed to a diligent and faithful discharge of their obligation in supporting divine ordinances, as an obligation imposed upon them, not by the will of man, but by the dictate of eternal wisdom and love. Let the office-bearers themselves seek to be more deeply imbued with the spirit of Paul in this matter, and thus, whilst fresh vigour will be infused into their own souls, they will be animated by a more resolute determination to declare the whole counsel of God, whether men will hear or forbear.

2nd. The office-bearers of the Church ought to insist upon the benefits that will result from liberality in the support of religious ordinances. It is through these ordinances that we have any warrant to expect the bestowment of the blessings of the Gospel salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ hath instituted these ordinances for this very purpose, and has pledged his faithfulness to render them efficacious. These ordinances are visible, and must be upheld and extended by external and secular means. Upon man has devolved the responsibility of doing all this, by giving of his worldly property; and according to his liberality will these ordinances be maintained and increased. If, then, these ordinances are the divinely constituted channels for the conveyance of heavenly grace, in all its exhilarating influence to the soul, how loud the call addressed to all who have any sense of the value of that grace, to contribute according to their ability, yea, and beyond their