

5000 each raise an ox which would bring \$30, we would have $\$30 \times 5000 = \$150,000$. If the suggestion meets with approbation, it should be taken up at once by ministers bringing it before their congregations. By beginning this spring we could know by the meeting of Synod how we stand. Remember Malachi 3-10: 12.

Yours truly,

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OUR MISSION WORK AS A CHURCH.

MR. EDITOR.—I am so thoroughly Presbyterian that I feel pity for all those who are of another persuasion, because they do not know the “more excellent way.” Allow me, then, to encroach a little on your valuable space, by making the following suggestions, that deeply affect the welfare of our Church.

1. Two years ago, I requested the Presbytery of Kingston to accept of my resignation of St. Columba Church, and to erect it into a separate charge. At that time it was in a more flourishing condition than the whole congregation was at my ordination. Many a heartache, and any amount of fatigue it gave me ere this was accomplished. Now I am deeply pained to see it in a state of semi-delapidation; and the people have had serious thoughts about going over to the Kirk, because they have the idea that it will supply them with cheaper preaching than they get from us. St. John's Church, Huntingdon, that I excavated without fee or reward, for a like reason, is showing indication of going in the same direction. Experience has taught me not to expect the courtesy of being conferred with on the subject, before the absorption is commenced. The evil indicated is very extensive, and seriously checks the growth of our church. To arrest this, would it not be well to adopt the method of the Free Church of Scotland, by having a staff of collectors in all the stations and congregations not settled, who shall regularly remit to the Central Fund all the contributions raised? Let the preachers be wholly paid out of that. Such an arrangement would benefit both preachers and people. The former would get their dues, and the latter would pay theirs. As it is, the latter will not meet their liabilities, when the former do not please them. A mercenary spirit is fostered, and vital godliness dwarfed. By the plan proposed, as in duty bound, the stronger would help the weaker, and a better spirit would animate both preachers and people.

2. We are more prodigal of our preachers than any other church is, and from the number of them we can least afford to be so. However meagrely equipped, Episcopalians, and especially Methodists, send preachers to their people without consulting them. We have generally better-educated preachers, and we give our people the power to choose and reject. I do not find fault with our mode of procedure, as it seems to be the scriptural one. But as our weakest congregations, on the one hand, strive to have the most popular preachers to build them up, without an adequate salary to give weight to their call, so our preachers, on the other, accept the best offers in a pecuniary sense, and where the work is not too laborious. In consequence, these weak congregations become weaker by disappointments; some of the people join other churches for the sake of regular service, and the labours of the less popular preachers, too, are lost to the church. Might we not husband our resources by a kind of itinerancy? Among these very preachers may be men, who, were they better known, would easily get calls, and turn out most efficient pastors. More of our vacancies would