

the Sabbath-school, the prayer-meeting, the choir; preside in the church-session and attend the several judicatories of the Church; to visit the sick, attend funerals, and frequently see and converse with your families. He must have books and some standard periodicals, to keep up with the Christian age. And besides all this, he must be given to hospitality; the prophet's chamber must be always ready under his roof; and he must reciprocate at least, if not invite, the social intercourse of his people. But still more than all—to be an efficient pastor, he must have the graces of personal piety in constant exercise, to give unction to his ministrations; if his heart grows cold, if his zeal flags, if his ardour loses its freshness, his ministry will prove a failure. To accomplish all this he must work hard—work incessantly—and keep his perilous charge with unceasing vigilance, wisdom, and firmness.

Now, this is the Presbyterian pastor, and these are *his* duties. What are the duties of his congregation? I answer—to honour him, to co-operate with him, to pray for him, and to *support him liberally*.

What are the figures? Take your pencil and put them down. So much for rent; so much for wages; so much for fuel and light, furniture, library, provisions according to the number of his family, clothing; so much for the education of his children, and so much for the thousand little things that your wife will tell you must be added to the housekeeping account;—put all these at what you know they cost in your locality, and then add twenty-five per cent. to the whole amount of your figures, and you will find, 1. The actual amounts necessary for your pastor's support; and 2. The fact that the salary you give does not support him, will, in nine cases out of ten, be established.

And yet you perceive here is no calculation made—no provision allowed for enabling your pastor to put by something for sickness, disability, old age—no provision for his family in case of his death. Pastors are men, and subject, like all others, to human vicissitudes. They feel as anxious for their families as you do for yours. What is wise and prudent and proper for you to do, it is equally proper they should do. But is not the fact apparent, that even if you give them a full and liberal support, no adequate provision is made for them beyond it.

Men of ordinary education, talents, and industry, almost always make a competent support, and lay up enough to make their families comfortable after they are gone. Why should pastoral labour be less liberally rewarded?

But pass this by. The cold, naked, unmitigated truth is, that we do not support our pastors, with a few exceptions, adequately. The world expects them to pay full price for every thing; to incur no debts, or pay them promptly; to live in a way not to discredit their people; to be patterns of honesty; to do justice to their families, to be an hospitable, cheerful, attentive, kind, amiable, excellent Christian gentleman. In a word, to make the full tale of bricks, while we give them no straw.

The right way to secure a competent support for a pastor is to adopt the same rule which the people adopt for the support of the civil government, to wit, for every one to pay according to his ability. Taxes are assessed upon property. The rich pay according to their wealth. The poor man, who has no property, pays only a small capitation tax. A. pays \$100 to support the government; B., his next door neighbour, pays \$1. Yet government is just as important to B. as it is to A. The same rule is admitted to be equitable in the matter of sustaining all the benevolent and religious charities of the Church; the rich are expected to give according to their abundance, the poor according to their poverty. The Saviour taught this doctrine in commending the widow for her mite.

Now, if the people of our congregations would cordially adopt this rule, there would be no difficulty in raising a competent annual support for the pastors. If we would first ascertain what sum per annum would be a just and liberal support, and then each agree to pay his share of it, each of us graduating that share by