

other members of the same body, possessed of equal or superior means, should enjoy constant Sabbath services and pastoral care besides, at one tenth, or even one twentieth of the expense, and persons in these circumstances have no more than their own resources can supply? Is not God robbed, if tithes and offerings are so withheld that his treasury can afford no help in such a case? Is it fulfilling the royal law written in the Scriptures to leave such persons to depend entirely upon themselves.

Instances might be furnished from various parts of the church of large-hearted efforts to obtain the stated ordinances of religion, without success. Individuals too, might be mentioned, in supplemented congregations, who, to their power and beyond their power, are willing of themselves to make large sacrifices, in order to obtain the assistance of the church in supporting ordinances, where, without supplement ordinances could not be enjoyed. Settlements and stations containing isolated families attached to the principles of our church, might be mentioned where the bread of life has been furnished, not only to them, but to neighbours around, who, though hailing in some instances with other churches, are as sheep without a shepherd, and beyond the reach of christian fellowship. Sometimes the church's agents discover places where the gospel has never before been preached, even though they have been settled for long periods of years. One of them reports an audience of some thirty individuals, sitting under his ministry very lately, in a commodious and comfortable building recently erected, where, till he visited them, a few months ago, the gospel had never been preached. The audience included three generations, and some in all the three could not read. Most of them had occasionally attended worship elsewhere, but several of the young people never heard any preacher but himself. He was kindly received, courteously entertained, and furnished with substantial proofs that his services were appreciated. The good seed was cast into the fallow ground, committed to the care of the Great Husbandman, and in due time the harvest may be expected to arrive.

Persons are sometimes found who have spent a long life where the churches have supposed that ample provision was made for their instruction, who need to be taught the first principles of the oracles of God, and who, with child-like docility, listen with intense interest to the simplest illustrations of gospel truth. Like the Greenlanders when first told of the death of Christ, they say, "tell us that again," and so encourage a repetition of missionary visits, and obtain a knowledge of saving truth.

How many congregations are now self-sustaining and assisting in the support of the schemes of the church—how many churches beautify the landscape and furnish centres of co-operation for interested groups of worshippers—how many settlements enjoy the regular dispensation of the ordinances of religion thro' means of aid from the Home Mission Board,—something more than the public records of the church is requisite to declare.

How many souls have been enlightened—how many lives rescued from bondage, and devoted to the service of the living God—how many enquirers have been directed—how many mourners comforted—how many desponding have been cheered—how many halting decided—how many hesitating confirmed—by means of Home Evangelistic labours, the great day alone will disclose. And there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed. We have islands on our coasts as much in need of missionary labours as the isles of the South Seas and with as little disposition and ability to secure them for themselves. Neglect of these is the more criminal, in proportion as they are more accessible and our own peculiar charge.

Our gold fields, our mines, and other industrial speculations bring together men from the ends of the earth. The ingenuous youth of our own rural districts consort with the careless, the infidel and the profane—and need to have the lessons of the nursery, the Sabbath school and the pulpit urged upon them to keep them in the old paths and the good way, from which they are often enticed to swerve.* Promiscuous ga-

*Note.—At one of our distant stations a few weeks ago several young men from different