

Return the rate per family in 22 supplemented congregations is \$11.45, while in the remaining congregations, which receive no supplement, it is \$10.82. They are dependent upon these grants for the stated supply of gospel ordinances among them. Take them away or reduce them and we fear that many of them, before long, will be as sheep scattered upon the mountain, without a shepherd. And is this a result to be contemplated with equanimity by any true-hearted lover of Zion?

Or look at this alternative in another point of view. Consider how the withdrawal or partial payment of these grants will affect the brethren labouring in these congregations. The average yearly supplement granted is in each case about \$100, but even with this aid the stipends are miserably inadequate. We may note down a few of them. In 7 cases at least it is at and under \$450; in nine it is under \$500, and in eight less than \$600; and let it be clearly understood that in each of these instances the supplement is included. Surely this simple statement of facts should be enough to show the utter impossibility of even curtailing to say nothing of withdrawing altogether the supplements promised. These brethren have been placed by the Church where they are. She has set them upon the high places of the field. She has made them a promise of some small measure of help, on the faith of which they are depending—and is the Church to repudiate her solemn engagements, and disappoint those than whom none are labouring more earnestly in her service, and who deserve far different treatment at her hand. Indeed we have long thought that the place which the brethren, who are labouring in the home field under such conditions as we have pointed out above, occupy in the sympathies and prayers and liberality of the Church is far from being what it ought to be. To labour on from year to year, as many of them are doing, with no small degree of energy and efficiency, and in the face of difficulties and discouragements of no ordinary kind, should be regarded as a signal display of devotedness to the cause of Christ—we will go further—of moral

heroism of the highest kind. We do not wish to make invidious comparisons—nothing like this is in our thoughts, but we have no hesitation in affirming that to go abroad among the heathen now a days requires an amount of courage and of character greatly less than to be a minister in many parts of the home field. The missionary is supported abundantly, he goes forth amid the prayers and congratulations of the whole church, he is constantly encouraged by the interest he knows is taken in him, by the cordial and far-spread sympathy that is excited in his behalf. But at home it is with many, self-denial and patience from beginning to end. There are no popular hosannas, no crowd to cheer them on, there is nothing of outward excitement, there is only steady, unfaltering, unrelieved, unencouraged labour. And if this witness be true have not these brethren, we ask again, a claim—may a strong and overpowering claim upon that Church to whose service they have devoted themselves? Their difficulties are already too great, their burdens too heavy, their apprehensions of the future too painful—and are these to be increased, and it may be rendered unbearable by even a partial failure on the Church's part to supplement the engagements into which she has entered with them? We cannot believe it.

And therefore we turn to the other alternative, i.e., that our people come up promptly to the help of this scheme. As we stated before not less than \$1500 will be required immediately after the new year, to pay in full the supplements promised. And surely after what has been insisted on above, there is little need of enlarging further. One or two suggestions, however, of a practical kind, may not be out of place—1st—Let congregations come promptly to the front. During the financial year ending May 31st last, 83 congregations contributed to this scheme—a large number certainly, but still leaving a considerable proportion who have done nothing. May we not hope that the present position of the Fund will induce some of these at least to redeem the past by attention to present duty. And of these 83, to whom we may naturally look for help in