

sition which ministers occupy,—shewn the necessity of their office, its toils, and the preparation for it, its high responsibility to the church and to the world, together with its widespread benign influence, thus supplied material from which to judge whether they deserve a liberal support. Leaving out of sight these elements of thought and calculation as well as the outlay peculiar to the ministry, the question of amount of ministerial support has been, by some, wholly decided by a reference to the style of life which exists in any particular locality, or congregation, in which a minister resides. Is it on such principles the doctor, the lawyer, the merchant, the mechanic is paid? Do your legislators receive out of the public treasury according to a scale graduated to suit the different style of life in the different localities they represent? How preposterous would such a scale for adjusting the reward due professional labor in any other department but that of the ministry appear? Doctors and lawyers are well paid; are they more abundant in labors, are they more useful in society; do they fill more important stations in the social fabric than ministers? Legislators are well remunerated. Is their education better than ours? Do they spend more time in qualifying themselves to discharge their duties, or does their office impose upon them heavier responsibility than does the ministry on those who preach the gospel? Notwithstanding all this I may be still reminded that Paul preached the gospel free of "charge." I have already shewn why; and his reasons assigned are by no means flattering to the honesty, intelligence, or christian character of those who received the priceless boon. It may be well, too, to remind you that he likewise fearlessly published the fact to the world and gloried in it. We have thus apostolic example should ministers deem it expedient to make known how much they give for the support of divine ordinances. And the difference of the amount between what they actually receive and what they are entitled to receive, ought to be considered their contribution or subscription for this purpose. Paul received nothing in some instances. We cannot make

this complaint but we receive less than we ought to receive. If he greatly boasted in patiently sustaining this loss for the gospel's sake, it may not be wrong for us to boast with him in proportion to what we bear in the same line of inadequate support. If our determination in this matter be attributed to mercenary motives, we have cause of complaint which he, when even laboring among heathens, had not to combat; or should our liberty be assailed, in any way on this subject, let us, with that fearless man, reply, "As the truth of Christ is in me, no man shall stop me of this boasting in all the regions of Achaia," 2 Cor. xi. 10.

II. Let us now glance at some of the evils produced by inadequate ministerial support. And foremost must be placed the fact that many talented and pious young men are deterred from entering upon the work of the ministry, because the ministry is too poorly supported. The truth of this statement can be abundantly established.—At a conference of ministers and elders of the U. P. Church of Scotland, last spring, held in the Presbyterian Hall, Glasgow, this was freely admitted. In a report of their proceedings they say: "Reference was made to the decreasing number of students as shewn by the returns of past years, in consequence it was contended of the smallness of the stipends given to ministers, and it was urged that if some improvement in this respect did not take place, there would, in a few years, be an *alarming deficiency of preachers*." The Old School Presbyterian organ in the United States says: "The paucity of young men devoting themselves to the sacred office has awakened a deep and general feeling of solicitude throughout our own and other evangelical churches. Much has been said and written respecting the supposed cause of this untoward phenomenon. And the conviction seems now to be *universal*, that one principal cause is the insufficient support of the ministry." It is not necessary to dwell on the magnitude of this evil. But you may be reminded that it hath pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save men, that faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by preaching; that of all the means to con-