

It may be said that none are fit for the ministry who are not willing to labour irrespectively of all pecuniary considerations? Let this be granted; yet what *right* has the Church to expect sacrifices for its welfare from young men, when it is unwilling to bear their burdens, or to make any sacrifices for their comfort and subsistence?

We ask the attention of the congregations of our church to these considerations and to act accordingly. We dare not tell all we know of the sufferings and privations of some of the ministers of our church. They themselves have not been loud or frequent in their complaints. This, however, is no reason why their wrongs ought not to be redressed. On the contrary the patience with which they have endured hardships gives them a stronger claim to a prompt consideration of their legitimate rights. The time is approaching when congregations usually hold their annual meetings for the settlement of their temporal affairs. We respectfully but earnestly suggest that if something is not previously done, steps shall then be taken to render justice to our ministers by the increase of their stipends which are now far below what they ought to be.

PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

Amid the startling changes of our times, it is natural that the Christian should inquire what bearing these changes have on the religion he professes, and also cherishes, as the basis of all his hopes. There are in particular two things that must, in this connection, strike at the present time even a careless observer. At each of these we would take a cursory glance.

1. It has become, in our day, very apparent, that, in accordance with prophecies and promises and visions of the sacred writings, all the nations of the earth are fast tending towards a unity of *temporal interests*. God has distributed the gifts of his providence in such a manner, as to compel the nations of the world, even from a selfish regard to their own interests,—to cultivate the acquaintance and esteem of each other. To India, Africa and the warm countries of America, he has given the cotton plant, a fibre now become all but essential, for the clothing of the human family. To Britain he has given pre-eminently the bounties of nature, necessary to turn this fibre, quickly and at least expense, into forms suited to the tastes and wants of every country. To Russia and North America, he has given soil and climate united for raising the staple articles of food needed by the cultivators and spinners of man's clothing. To China, India, and the warm countries of Europe, he has given the fruits, spices, and innocent luxuries that are entering more and more largely into the household consumption of the working man, all over the world. And thus has God distributed the productions of the earth, that as in a spiritual sense the Church is one body, so in a physical sense, the nations of the earth are also one body, though consisting of many members. And "as the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee, nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you," so according to the wise ordering of God in the distribution of the gifts of his providence, the east cannot say to the west, I have no need of thee, nor the North to the South, I have no need of thee. Europe cannot dispense, such are now the habits of men, with Asia, nor—can either dispense with America. Nay, so close is the union between the nations now become that the threatened war between Spain and the remote and insignificant republic of Chili, has alarmed Britain, for thence its supply of copper was mainly drawn." How intricate and wide spread the relations of the leading