

us, like little children, hang entirely on Him, reposing in the sweet assurance of his unchangeable, eternal love. Let us remember how He acted towards his saints of old, what his dealings were with them; let us remember ~~what is re-~~
~~member~~ what is recorded concerning their history; for now, as He has ever done, God will most surely act according to his Word.

This intimate experimental acquaintance with Him will make us truly happy. Nothing else will. If we are not happy Christians, there is something wrong. If we did not close the past year in a happy frame of spirit, the fault is ours, and ours alone.

In God our Father and the blessed Jesus our souls have a rich, divine, imperishable, eternal treasure. Let us enter into practical possession of these true riches; yea, let the remaining days of our earthly pilgrimage be spent in an ever-increasing, devoted, earnest consecration of our souls to Him.

MULLER.

Shepherds and their Flocks.

A mischief-breeding mistake is made, when pastors and their people fail to establish and maintain between each other a business-relation just as independent of the Spiritual, as it is possible to make it.

There is a feeling in many parishes that it is a gift by whatsoever any pastor may be profited by them, that a pastor earns nothing, and that in all things he is the beneficiary of the parish. Now, if a man is fit to preach he is worth wages, and they should be paid with all the business regularity that is demanded and enforced in business life. There is no man in the community who works harder for the money he receives than the faithful minister. There is no man in whose wages the community is interested—to whom regular wages that shall not cost him a thought, are so important. Of what possible use in a pulpit can any man be whose weeks are frittered away in mean cares and dirty economies? Every month, or every quarter day, every pastor should be sure that there will be placed in his hands, as his just wages, money enough to pay all his expenses. Then, without a sense of special

obligation to anybody, he can preach the truth with freedom, and prepare for his public ministrations without distraction. Nothing more cruel to a pastor or more disastrous to his work, than to force upon him a feeling of dependence upon the charities of his flock. The office of such a man does not rise in dignity above that of a court-fool. He is the creature of the popular whim, and a preacher without influence to those who do not respect him or his office sufficiently to pay him the wages due to a man who devotes his life to them. Maimness cannot live in such a man, except it be in torture—a torture endured simply because there are those who depend upon the charities doled out to him.

Good, many pastors and preachers do not want gifts; they want wages. It is not a kindness to eke out insufficient salaries by donation parties and by benefactions from the richer members of a flock. It is not a merit, as they seem to regard it for parishes or individuals to do this. It is an acknowledgment of indebtedness which they are too mean to pay in a business way. The pastor needs it, and they owe it, but they take to themselves the credit of benefactors, and place him in an awkward and a false position.

The influence of the state of things upon the world that lies outside of the sphere of Christian belief and activity, is bad beyond calculation. We have had enough of the patronage of Christianity, by a half scoffing, half toleration world. If Christians do not sufficiently recognize the legitimacy of the pastor's calling to render him fully his just wages, and to assist him to maintain his manly independence before the world, they must not blame the world for looking upon him with a contempt that forbids approach and precludes influence. The world will be quite ready to take the pastor at the valuation of his friends, and the religion he teaches at the price its professors are willing to pay in a business way, for its ministry.—*Scribner's Monthly*.

WE understand that the Union Committee sat in the city of Montreal in December. A correspondent informs us that the difficulties have been got over, and that union will now go on.