

attachment to and interest in the people of his charge gives place more and more to the merely professional. Hence arbitrariness comes to be almost an unavoidable characteristic of all ecclesiastical systems in which *rotaryism* finds a prominent place.

#### THE BETTER WAY.

The case is one to which the old proverb applies—*Prevention is better than cure.*

1. Under a free and liberal system like the Presbyterian, there is no practicable way of arranging matters in which the chief responsibility shall not rest on the people,—on the church itself for which its office-bearers exist. Our people insist on their *right* to choose a pastor, and they must recognise the responsibility that belongs naturally and necessarily to such right. Let them exercise more care in using their right of choice before they ask Presbytery to form the pastoral tie. We are all familiar with the old saying, Marry in haste, repent at leisure. Congregations are long enough vacant. But no matter how long, the choice is too often made at last on the haphazard principle of, Hit or miss. Even where men of experience are sought, less care is taken to enquire rationally into antecedents and to obtain a satisfactory guarantee that the choice is a wise one, than an ordinary business firm would exercise in choosing a clerk who might be dismissed summarily or at short notice. As likely as not the choice will be in favor of some ministerial excursionist, or chronic wanderer in search of pastures new, who always manages to carry a few select sermons with him and counts on a general hand-shaking, a free lavishing of smiles, or a general off-handedness, even if put off for the occasion, to do the rest. The system of candidating is bad for all concerned. We may suppose that not many instances occur like the following, but it serves to show how little reliance can be placed on a few sermons as a sample of what a congregation can expect for its ordinary fare. While spending a few weeks at Princeton, N. J., a few years ago, Peabody, the well-known elocutionist drill, stated as an instance of the value attached to his services, that a few days before he received a note to be present at a certain function when the morning train was due from —. The object of the note turned out to be to employ the time until the train going to