

tion, he (Dr. Buchanan) and another Gentleman, had occasion to confer with Dr. Chalmers about some other matter connected with the proceedings of that memorable period. It was in his private room in the University. "Fresh from the chair," says Dr. Buchanan in his report, "where he had been delivering one of his noble theological prelections, his very first salutation to us, as he hastily entered the little apartment, was,—“ Well, gentlemen, what are you doing about the associations for raising funds?” With feelings, not unnatural, perhaps, in our position, we told him we had taken no part in the forming of such associations at all. We were preparing to relinquish the emoluments of our office, at the call of conscience and of Christ, and we shrunk from even the appearance of busying ourselves about the provision that was to come in their room. Instead of complimenting us on this state of feeling, he had no patience with it, and broke out upon us in a tone of the most vehement expostulation. He would not so much as look at our personal concern in the matter at all. As for our martyr-like spirit, or high Christian chivalry, as we might think it, he treated it without a particle of ceremony. It was standing in the way, not merely of a great future good, but of a present and paramount duty; and this was enough to make it almost odious in his eyes. What was the worth of our testimony for the headship of Christ, and for the spiritual liberties of His Church, if means were not taken to perpetuate it, and to make it serviceable to the great work for which alone the Church of Christ exists?—the work of converting sinners and edifying the saints of God. We were about to renounce the endowments of the State, because we could no longer retain them with a good conscience towards God. But was our Church, for that reason, to abandon its mission?—was it to go tamely to the wall, and to leave Erastianism and Moderatism in the sole possession of the field?—or was it, on the contrary, to become more than ever a great and glorious instrument for diffusing true religion and vital godliness throughout the land and throughout the world? This was the point of view in which that remarkable man contemplated the Sustentation Fund. As for the little delicacies of men's personal feelings, he brushed them aside like so many cobwebs, in prosecuting the grand achievement on which he had set his heart. Like Nehemiah, he was doing a great work; and he could not come down to discuss little questions as to what onlookers might think or say about their motives or designs. That interview made a deep impression on my mind. I felt myself rebuked by the utterance of these noble sentiments.”

And now, do you ask, what is the duty of the office-bearers of the Church, Ministers, Elders, and Deacons, in connection with this impor-

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