

"One knows not what sort of people may be in an assembly such as this: and anxious as I am to clear away every obstacle, to remove every obstruction from my path, let me also remark that, for another reason, I feel myself to-day standing on vantage ground. This, although more of a personal, is not less of a pleasant kind. For it, I desire to be grateful to man, but especially to Him who chooses our lot—the pulpit for the minister, and his place in life for every man; to him who, in leaving superior men to obscurity, and raising others to posts of eminence and comfort, not seldom verifies the saying, "The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." So it is that through your kindness, and the providence of Him to whom we commit our ways, whose rod faith bows to in every trial, and whose mercy gratitude owns in every blessing, I am placed in circumstances that raise me above all suspicion. Even the basest and most selfish man, he whose only aim is his own aggrandizement, and who betrays the meanness of his own mind in his unjust and unfavourable judgment of others, even he cannot suspect that, when I plead the cause of this fund, I am animated by any selfish motive, for to me personally it matters little or nothing whether this fund prosper or fail.

"I do not mean to say that the unworthy suspicion of unworthy motives can excuse any minister for shrinking from his duty, or that however much his circumstances expose him to unjust suspicions, or his faithfulness to the slanderer's tongue, he is in this, or in any other matter, to fail in declaring the whole counsel of God.

"In urging on his people the claim he has upon their support, a man in my place has no reason to be ashamed; that claim is not of generosity but justice; and I say it frankly, plainly, confidently, that the minister of the gospel has the same moral claim on his people for an adequate stipend, as the lawyer has on his clients or the physician on his patients, for their fees; as the merchant has to his profits, the soldier to his pay, the labourer to his hard-earned wages. Do you ask our authority for a claim which some may think so high and too confidently made? It is no human authority. We draw it not from the musty records of earthly courts, the pages of council, assembly, synod, or presbytery. We open the divine word, and there, in 1 Cor. ix. 14, inspired of God's Spirit, and engrossed in the very deed and body of Christ's last will and testament, I read these words: 'It is ordained of God, that they who preach the gospel should live of the gospel.'"

While thus contending for the rights of official ministers to temporal support, he maintains at the same time that it is the privilege and the duty of all the people of God to be workers together in the cause of Christ:—

"I have never thought that the preaching of Christ and him crucified is to be left wholly to ministers. This is not our exclusive privilege and pleasure. "This honour have all his saints." While it is the official privilege of some to preach with the lip, it is the duty of all to do so with something more persuasive even than the lips of eloquence. You, you are to preach with the life,—“Let him that heareth say come,” that is your vocation. And this should encourage you to engage in it and pursue it, that these silent sermons—preached from no pulpits, but delivered amid domestic scenes, in the place of toil and business, within the social circle, and on the public streets—are often the most effective. This is the best of all street-preaching, when people say, 'Ah! there goes a Christian, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no guile a man who would rather be the injured than the injurer, a man who would not tell a lie nor commit the smallest fraud to gain the greatest advantage, a man who goes about doing good, who has a big heart and open hand, a heart to love all and a hand to help all he can, who takes the Bible for his rule, the Saviour for his model, and loves his Lord in heaven so well that he loves Him better than all else on earth.' The pulpit preaches no sermons more effective than such a life and conversation. This clear, constant, beautiful, heavenly, lustrous light is in some respects calcu-