

But when preachers are not called, they are continued on the list of probationers for six years, receiving regular appointments. After this they are placed on what is called "the list of occasional supply," and receive such appointments as can be made without injury to the preachers on the list of regular supply. The preachers are regularly paid by the congregations they supply: the amount given for each Sabbath's services, exclusive of weekly board, varies from £1 1s. to £3 3s. sterling.

The preachers, having their travelling expenses to defray, may sometimes find the remuneration insufficient; but on the whole, we believe, it enables them creditably and comfortably to fulfil their appointments, and the Synod generally makes allowance for extra or unforeseen expenses. Some ministers, located in small congregations, with families, have more difficulties to struggle with than even they had when on the probationers' list, and it has often been felt to be the duty of the Church to take the subject of ministerial support into their serious consideration.

This important subject was taken up at the meeting of Synod in 1849, in an overture from the Presbytery of Aberdeen, on the more liberal support of ministers. Mr. William Paterson, Elder, Aberdeen, was the principal mover in this cause, in which many laymembers supported him. It came with propriety from the Eldership. A Committee of Ministers and Elders was appointed to take the subject into consideration, and to report. Mr. Paterson was appointed convener. During the session of this Synod, they recommended the appointment of a Committee selected from various quarters of the Church, to direct their attention fully to the great object in view, and to proceed, as early as possible, to take active measures for its accomplishment. A Committee of this description was accordingly appointed, which, in 1850, brought forward a lengthened and judicious report, of which we can only give the substance.

Their first point was to consider the standard of support for ministers, with a view to their personal and family comfort, and general usefulness. Here it was properly thought, that reason, justice, and the law of Christ, required that such a competency should be furnished as would enable ministers to sustain that respectable place in society to which their office entitles them, and not only to owe no man anything, but to provide things honest in the sight of all men; that their income should be such as to enable them to meet the ordinary expenditure of a family—to supply themselves with books necessary for the prosecution of their sacred studies—to educate their children—to defray their travelling expenses—to enable them to be patterns of hospitality and benevolence,—and even to make some provision for the infirmities of age, or for their families, in the event of their being removed by death.

Another point to which the attention of the Committee was called, was, that congregations were in general able, without difficulty, to provide adequate support for their ministers; that where want of ability is pleaded, it is often found to be want of plan and effort,—