

indifferent, and who on being asked why he did not dismiss the negligent and retain the good, replied, that as for the good he had need of them, and as for the bad, they had need of him. The minister, on the other hand, though the ruler of the church is also the servant of all. All need him and he needs all and may profit by all.

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### MISSIONARY DEPUTATIONS "ON STRIKE."

The reports of missionary meetings in one of the districts, given in our "News of the Churches" last month, contained some pretty loud mutterings against the arrangements for such meetings in that quarter. Some of these, relating to defective notification and double appointments, pertained to matters of detail which another year's experience can easily correct. But complaints are also made in relation to the entire method in which our missionary services are conducted; and that is a question of so great and so general importance, as to be fairly open to a remark or two, which we will take the liberty to make.

It seems to us, that the unusually protracted severity of the cold during the past winter has not been without its influence in producing the dissatisfaction now expressed. The deputations were half-frozen, the congregations were often diminished by the storms, the collections ditto, and in such circumstances everything looks awry. Former grievances pass into the superlative degree, and new ones gather around them. But we need hardly say, that no such peculiarity of a single season should permanently affect a system of religious operations.

One correspondent suggests, that missionary meetings be held only in places where they are desired. To us, it appears that this would throw the whole matter into uncertainty, year by year; that it would break up the completeness of the present plan; and that it would go far to prevent effective deputations being formed. When every place is visited, and every pastor is expected to take his share in the work, it can be done. We fear that the other plan would "take the heart out of" the thing altogether.

There is no doubt some difficulty in securing a good meeting in the towns and cities, where public meetings are so numerous as to be a perfect drug. The cause presented is so familiar as to have no romantic interest, so limited in its scope as not to strike the imagination by its bulk, and has been so often presented as to have lost the charm of novelty, while the advocates are nearly the same from year to year.

In the rural churches, the missionary meeting is more of an event, and creates a greater sensation. But even in the towns, we think it would generally be a loss to give up the service, even if the pecuniary result is not largely affected by holding it. If the addresses are at all what they ought to be, the communication of facts, the awakening of personal sympathy, and the exhibition of the grand principles and motives of missionary work, will be more thorough and effective than what is usually done from the pulpit. By greater attention to the arrangements on the part of secretaries and pastors, by unflinchingly reliable punctuality in the attendance of deputations, and perhaps by a more thorough use of the capabilities of the platform, still greater interest could be excited. If, as one writer suggests, the restoration of resolutions would work a revolution, by all means let us have them.