

alone. It is a very small token of our love to God that we contribute our presence, in order to give to the service the warmth and heartiness, which number contributes so largely to secure. Home life is good. But church life will not hurt it; nay, it will elevate and purify home life itself. The home is never so full of its noblest inspiration as when all the members are conscious of their relation to the community of Christian minds and hearts.

A word as to the Church building and the indebtedness upon it. The building is not ours; it is dedicated to God and his Gospel. We should free it for its proper purposes. It is not much to do in answer to what he has done for us. I am told it is not easy to pay the debt; I know it is not. But are we to do nothing for God but what is easy? Are we never to deny ourselves for him? It has been wisely said:—"If we permit ourselves to be saved by the blood of the Cross, it might be expected that we should be willing to serve Him who suffered for us, without asking whether the thing can be done easily or not. Shall I come to His table, and take the sacramental bread, and say: It is His body, broken for me, and then proceed to say: But as for Him, the crumbs that fall from my table, the odd dollars or cents that can be spared, the things that are left, after all my own needs, present or future, have been met,—these shall be payment for Gethsemane, and requital for the Cross. The question is not, what will be easy? but it is: What are we bound to do by honour, and duty, and love?" I speak as to wise men and to men who feel their obligation to Christ, and I leave it with God, and with you.

Let us try to draw nearer than ever to the springs of power and excellence in this next year; let our religion be, not only an ornament to our lives, and an occasional impulse to good, but an abiding condition of our entire nature. And may the rich blessing of God descend on every one amongst us.

Your affectionate Pastor,

J. F. STEVENSON.