

instructions as to the nature and extent of their duties. By some such scheme, judiciously carried out, I apprehend that neither the churches nor the young men themselves would suffer. There would doubtless be entailed upon the young men some additional labor, in so far as study and immediate labor are concerned; but it ought to be borne in mind that this labor is in more immediate connection with their solemn prospective avocations, than the honorable employment of teaching. While making these remarks in connection with P. E. Island, I do not wish you to understand that I make them with reference to the Island only; no, it was merely the state of the Island that forced the subject more directly upon my own mind. I am rather apprehensive that if other districts were examined as closely as the Island was, there would be found places as necessitous as theirs.

#### 2nd. MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

Another subject which has engaged my attention, and which has engaged yours also, is the situation of some of our brethren in the poorer and more thinly peopled parts of the country. Follow our brother in his settlement over some country congregation. When he accepts the call of the people, and settles among them to break the bread of life, he is full of hope. His people have given him a hearty welcome, and they have promised to support him, and all seems fair and inviting. But our brother's hopes are generally disappointed. The subscription list, which carried upon its face the fair promise of £125 or £130, scarcely realizes £90 or £95; and even this sum was realized in such a way frequently, as to lower the standing of our brother in the affections of his people, and seriously cripple the efficiency of his labors among them. And the congregation all this while did not design to injure the man of their choice—the man whom they respected, and whom they desired to see happy: No, such a design never entered their minds; and yet they did him serious harm. Was it a wise thing in these loving hearts to take their subscription list, and solicit names from all of every denomination and of no denomination? And then, when no more could be had, to come to the Presbytery, and, in effect, say to them, "Christian brethren, we require a spiritual teacher: if you will be pleased to grant us one, we, Christian men and women, most solemnly promise to support him in comfort,

according to our ability; and in proof of this our promise present you this subscription list, which we now willingly guarantee. In this transaction, our christian brethren did not see that they were placing a considerable part of the temporal support of their minister upon their neighbors and acquaintances, who either did not belong to their Christian fellowship, or who made no pretensions to piety at all—and that they were of course placing it upon shoulders, which they had no right to expect, would either long or cheerfully bear this burden; and hence, instead of leaning purely on their own energies, they leaned partly upon people whose own communion required all their efforts, and partly upon people who were utterly unattached to religion, but who, in a fit of enthusiasm for the new minister, or in a fit of friendship for the brother who handed round the subscription paper, freely enough appended their names to it, but who from that time forward never more thought upon the subject. I ask, was this wise? Oh, was it kind and christian, and fair all through! And the pastor, by asking his people to fulfil their engagements, and by repeatedly asking them, begins to lose favor in their eyes.

Further, the mode in which his stipend is paid frequently tends to produce any thing but kindly feelings in his bosom towards them. Is it true, as I have been repeatedly told, that the produce brought to the minister's family is often of an inferior quality? And, my dear sir, what can be that minister's feelings towards his Parishioner, who, whatever he may profess, by his conduct virtually declares that anything is good enough for his minister. Shameful conduct this, surely! And the minister must live; and his salary is insufficient, and he has been deceived; and some way or other he gets lano, and in tilling it his attention is engaged, and the people begin to complain; and oh, they starve him first, and when he begins to get along they complain of his negligence; and it is true that the Parish suffers, and it is true that the time he gives to his land is taken from his people. It is true that he has no time, nor means, nor ability to enter upon those many wide fields of literature and science, and thence bring their rich stores as offerings to his Great Lord, by which to adorn and illustrate the gracious messages of mercy to a lost world. But he cannot help it. His family want bread and clothing and education, and he undea-