

definite. A minister of our Church speaking, not long ago of a brother minister, said he would likely remain unless he managed to secure a better job. When a minister could look his hearers in the face and use such language it is clear that it was not a new thing, but something familiar. That the idea is one of hiring is confirmed by the fact that the subscription is limited to one year and, must be renewed when that year expires. This is a late step in our progress, and is significant and leaves no doubt of the relative position of minister and people. It saves them trouble in getting rid of him. They need only reduce or refuse subscription. No minister should accept a call based on such a foundation, making him the hired servant of the multitude. In this matter there should be taken a firm stand. Every minister is the servant of Christ and the Church, but a ruler in spiritual matters over his people. "Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all suffering and doctrine." This surely implies authority and real power, and leaves no question as to the position of the minister of Christ in the congregation which has chosen him to be their pastor. To concur in changing that position to please the hearer, is to act the traitor and to forget the guidance and blessing of Christ. A great and serious change has passed over us. The union effected by induction was regarded by a past generation so sacred that in their Gaelic language they called it marriage, "posadh ris an Eaglais," and the minister who left his congregation, if he wished to retain public esteem and confidence, required to be provided with reasons almost sufficient to justify the man who had forsaken his wife. In this matter the change has been sudden, as it has been wide in its sweep over the Church and without protest or complaint universally accepted. When a minister is settled, and the professedly solemn induction has placed him as pastor, to watch over souls that must live on for ever in happiness or misery, and that under God