

man cannot be adapted to the Circuit, why not the circuit to the man? Is it necessary that Circuits should have geometrical proportions,—a certain size and shape, embracing so many square miles,—no more or less, and that the statutory definition of a Preacher be, one who can preach three times every Sabbath.

If the case referred to was a solitary one, we would not complain loudly, but in looking at our superannuated list, we can point out, twenty at least, men useful in their day, and popular in the pulpit, who are left without any regular work. To meet such cases, there should be here, as we believe in England, certain circuits formed, and suitable for the aged, and partially infirm, of our Ministers, and to do it we can see no insuperable barrier.

It might be said that when they are located they have work assigned them, but this is to a very limited extent, resulting not in those benefits certain defined, independent field would produce. On nearly all our circuits the principal appointments are supplied every Sabbath by the regular Ministers; the Superannuated has perhaps an occasional appointment, or to attend at places where his services are scarcely at all needed.

But there is an other aspect of the case; his temporal wants and supply. We asked a venerable brother at our last Conference, where do you intend to settle, the reply was, I do not know. I have no place of my own—neither house or land,—nor have I money to purchase either. Such a state of things is scarcely to be found in any civilized society, let alone a Christian Church. Savages frequently knock their old people on the head when they can no longer support themselves; our ideas are of course more refined, and we would shudder at the thought of imitating such barbarous cruelty, but really there is something that contravenes common justice and scriptural teaching and injunction in allowing our aged Ministers to close their mortal career so harrassed with worldly care, or with downright penury and want.

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## OUR BACKSLIDERS.

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DEFECTIVE PASTORAL VISITATION is another cause of our backslide.

We have strong confidence on the whole in our itinerant system, consider it the best; but because we do so, are we to suppose it to be without its defects? One of these we perceive is, its want of thorough adaptation to pastoral duties such as a settled ministry affords. We scarcely remain long enough on a circuit to be intimately acquainted with all the peculiarities and wants and requirements of our people. Confidence is a plant of