

wisdom, no doubt, we would act precisely as we do in regard to the things of this life. Every one's salary would be settled and fixed, whether by the year, month, day, or by the amount of applause which the speaker might upon a fair *trial strain* at the beginning, be enabled to gain from well qualified critics on the fair proportions of preachers. We could offer many objections, but a few must answer our present purpose.

The New Testament is as silent as the grave in reference to settling at the beginning of the year, what a preacher may need. It is impossible in the very nature of things, for any one to tell, or even approach the amount which may be required for the support of the Evangelist or his family. The contingences of living are too great for determining such questions in advance. Men in all legitimate pursuits receive according to the labor performed. The farmer knows not what he is to reap; but he labors in faith and God gives him such a reward as pleases Him. It is always right, though it may be more or less anticipated. In religion no one knows what he shall receive in the world to come, but the confidence that we shall be as our Lord, is altogether satisfactory; and in reading the Scriptures we discover that even on this earth, ministers like the faithful ox that treads out the corn, plow in hope, sow seed in hope, and in the performance of the labor can say with Paul, "If we have sown (not what will you give us to sow a year,) unto you Spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?"

But few of the partizan world are disposed to walk by faith—every thing must be a matter of sight or feeling. Hence they fancy that they make bargains with Jehovah to the effect, that, on the condition the Lord will first give them religion, remission of sins, and fill their hearts with the Holy Spirit, they will condescend to be baptized, and will even join the church, because they have wrestled with God till he has saved them. Do these people believe, or trust the Lord? It is well known that the authorities make the converts tell that God has met them in the grove, at the altar or elsewhere, and given them a christian's reward, although they have not taken the first step to enter into Christ. The same principle, to our mind, seems to govern the brethren generally, upon the subject we are considering. Brethren before they will preach, having really not proper confidence, as it seems to us, in the Lord, His cause, or His people, are disposed to make mat-