

ORGANIZATION, AS A LEVER OF THE CHURCH.

Our first scheme, and the one which in our opinion ought to be paramount to all others, is a fit and honorable support of the Gospel ministry in each congregation. There could, perhaps, be no stronger proof of want of organization in a church, than the irregular or inadequate payment of its minister. Nothing has so depressing an effect upon vital religion, so deadening an effect upon a congregation, or so depressing and altogether crushing an effect upon a minister. Nothing is more common, yet few things are more cruel, than the miserable support extended generally in this country to a gospel ministry. Yet this sad state of matters is brought about by no want of proper feeling on the part of the people, but simply from a want of that disciplined knowledge which teaches them what to give and when to give. In every case, with the proper means, it is just as easy, and far more satisfactory, to pay regularly than otherwise. It is indeed infinitely better for the people, and we need not say also for the clergyman, nay, so much better for the latter that we believe there are few ministers who would not prefer £120 paid regularly on quarter day, to £150 doled out in driblets at uncertain intervals. Every one is ready to acknowledge that it is a shame that the servant of the altar should be so scantily provided for; and the acknowledgment is something, inasmuch as it indicates a willingness to see a remedy applied. If we could only agree as to the extent of the remedy, and make up our minds to do our parts in each case, we would be astonished at the ease, the certainty, and the inexpensiveness of the means. We hold that every minister ought to be in a position to lay past something, say £50 every year. In this country, where there is no state provision for the clergy, no widows' fund, he owes it to society and to his family to strain every nerve in this direction. Alas! in almost every case it is not a difficulty, but an absolute impossibility. He suffers, his family suffers, and indirectly but most of all the congregation is liable to suffer in its most important—its spiritual interests. Is it not of the greatest consequence to avoid this, more especially when we know that a little trouble, a little tact, some zeal, judgment mixed with a measure of firmness, may effect all that we wish, often, indeed almost always with slight pecuniary sacrifice? Organization, in this, as in other things, is the OPEN SESAME. How many anxious homes does the want of this often occasion, of what point and force does it deprive many a sermon, what elasticity of spirit does it crush out, and how often is the minister blamed for the fault which rests upon his congregation? We rejoice, however, that an improvement is visible in this matter, and we trust that elders, managers and people, for their own sake, for the prosperity of the Church, for the best interests of religion, will each and together hasten on the good work. It is an old saying that love begets love. Let us give this practical proof of the affection we bear our Church, by showing that we have