

goods, or because the hands of the Presbytery had not been laid upon his head. Some, whose ministry has been a comparative failure, and who in consequence thereof have been stranded upon a pastorless shore, might have been eminently successful as leaders in the Sabbath School and as local evangelists, had they, after the manner of the great apostle to the Gentiles, been content to labor with their hands for the bread that perishes.

By all means, let us encourage our brethren to use the gifts and talents which God has given them, but do not let us ask, expect, or attempt to aid, a creature to fly before God has given it wings. To any who ask for our advice relative to their call to the ministry, let us reply in the words of the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, "Brother, do not be a minister if you feel you could better be something else," or unless you and your brethren are convinced that God has called you to the work. It would be well for those who contemplate the ministry to labour for a season with some destitute church or churches, and if the brethren are men of the right stamp they will be sure to make strenuous efforts to supply his temporal necessities, and if he attends well to his Master's business, his Master will be sure to supply his needs, even though neither Missionary Board nor Society shall have sent him out. And while thus labouring for Jesus let the brother seek by reading and study, especially of the Word of God, to improve his talents and advantages to the glory of his Lord, and in order that he may be the better fitted for his future ministry.

We thus recommend to our feeble and destitute churches a policy of self-help, but while we do this, we urge the stronger to remember, that the weak have claims upon *them*, claims upon their practical sympathy and benevolence. Then let it be shown in a practical manner, even though it necessitate some self-denial and sacrifice. We strongly urge the churches that are favoured with the regular preaching of the Word of God to give their pastors an occasional Sabbath in order that they may spend it with some needy church, and they will find themselves well repaid by the increased missionary spirit which their pastors will manifest in connection with their regular ministry,—and better still, they will be rewarded by Him who shall say at last, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of the least of these, ye did it unto me."

The history of the Baptists in these Maritime Provinces is continually exhorting us not to "despise the day of small things." During the last fifty years God has done great things for us as a denomination. *Then* there were but *six* churches within the present limits of this Association, and they were composed of but few members each; now we have *sixty-four* churches with about four thousand six hundred members, and some of them, viz., those who have been most energetic and consistent, although very feeble in their commencement, are now becoming towers of strength. From some of them have come forth brethren who occupy important positions in the ministry, and on the foreign mission field. Thus