

blame. It may be that the pastor who should rule wisely does not so rule, and that the man who should teach laboriously does not so teach. In such cases the natural result must follow. If I venture to say to Churches—deserve more able ministers and you will have them; so I would venture to say to ministers, deserve position and you will gain it. In life generally, and here as elsewhere, the rule is, that to merit success is to realise it. At the same time, it must be remembered, that the measure of success possible to a Nonconformist minister in a small town is often very limited. The cases are not few in which the whole of the small population may be said to be used up—wholly appropriated by one denomination or another. Men who have to labor in such circumstances have a strong claim on our sympathy. If the people immediately about them are not kind and generous towards them, truly their life is not an experience to be envied. But let such a minister feel that whatever may be the apathy or prejudice around him he has peace and kindness at home, and his heart can then be strong. Let our land be more studded with Churches thus enlightened, and, under God, our ministry will become a power of a much higher order.

TWO PLANS FOR TEACHING CHURCH MUSIC.

Feeling assured that many of our churches would enter upon the improvement of their Psalmody, if their pastors and "chief singers" knew *how* to popularise the study of music, we give below two sketches of plans that have been adopted by the Congregational churches in this city, respectively. These plans are based on the same principles, but seek a common end by somewhat different roads. One of them may be found more practicable in one place; the other in another. The first is probably better adapted to the purpose of combining the proficient and the un instructed in a practice meeting; the second, to that of thoroughly training those who cannot read music at all in the elements of the art. It would not be at all difficult to combine the two plans; say, by having a supplementary meeting for beginners on the principle of the second plan, while they also took part in the practice meetings described in the first. It will interest our friends to know, further, that, for the working of each plan, a lithographic sheet of tunes in the Figure Notation has been printed for the use of each person attending the meetings. This can be done at a moderate cost, and, with the adoption of some additional signs to indicate the length of the notes, may furnish also a specimen and instalment of a possible form of a Canadian Congregational Tune-Book.

PLAN FOR PSALMODY PRACTICE—No. I.

(READ AT A SOCIAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION).

The plan now to be explained takes for granted that certain things are clearly understood and firmly held by those who are accustomed to meet together here for the worship of God.

1. That the singing of God's praises is an *essential* part of the services of the sanctuary, as much so as prayer, reading, and preaching.
2. That it is the part of the *whole* congregation to join in this service.
3. That it is their duty to offer their praises, not only in the most devout spirit, but also in the *best musical form* they can attain unto.