

We are not clerical pensioners upon mere bounty. Our appeal is to justice; and if our claims are denied on this ground we refuse to plead before any other tribunal, and refer the matter to the great assize." As suggestive of thought on this question we give our readers an extract from a singularly racy and powerful speech of the Rev. Dr. Guthrie, as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church :—

"On two points I intended to address this Assembly. As to the Missionary cause, in which I feel the deepest interest, I must leave that, if God spare me, to the sermon with which I shall open the next General Assembly. To the other, therefore, the minister cause, my fathers and brethren, in taking leave of you, give me liberty now fully and frankly to speak. I will speak frankly, and I'll honestly tell you the reason why. I have had it long in my head, and I have had it long in my heart. I am thankful that I am in circumstances now, by the kindness of my congregation and other things, to speak out my mind, and no low-minded man or woman can suspect me of any personal or mercenary motives in this matter. Therefore, I intend to speak out fully and frankly in this matter. Now, I take leave to say that the livings of our ministers are inadequate. I take leave to say more; I take leave to say that the livings of ministers are quite inadequate to their position and to their inevitable and unavoidable outlay. I take leave very distinctly and very expressly to say that; and what is the result of that? what shall be, and will be, the result of it? the greatest calamity that can befall the Church, far worse than persecution, and far worse than oppression. All hail to the storm, that, with God's blessing and good management, drives the ship on, instead of driving her back. The calamity which I dread, next to the withdrawal of the Divine blessing the greatest of all, is that the rising talent, and genius, and energy of our country may leave the Church for other professions. This is what moves me to speak, and what I have now to express on this subject. 'A scandalous maintenance,' as Matthew Henry says, 'makes a scandalous ministry.' I'll give you another sentence, which, though it is my own, is pregnant with truth—is as pregnant with truth, in my opinion, as Matthew Henry's, 'that the poverty of the manse will develop itself in the poverty of the pulpit.' I have no doubt about it; and that is the evil I am anxious to avoid. Genteel poverty, may you never know it—genteel poverty, to which some doom themselves, but to which ministers are doomed, is the greatest evil under the sun. Give me liberty to wear a frieze coat, and I will thank no one for black—give me liberty to rear my sons to be labourers, and my daughters to be domestic servants, and the manse in contentment and piety will enjoy the sun that shines on many a pious and lowly house; but to place a man in circumstances where he is expected to be generous and hospitable, to have a hand as open as his heart is to the poor, to give to his family a liberal education, to bring them up according to what they call genteel life—to place a man in these circumstances, and expect that from him, and deny him the means of doing it all, is, but for the hope of heaven, to embitter existence itself. I know some people do not like to hear of them, and those who like least to hear of them need most to hear of them. There are many people like an honest man belonging to Aberdeenshire, who once was asked what he thought of the Free Church. 'Oh,' says he, 'I admire her principles,' but I detest her schemes.' Now allow me to state two or three ways in which the claims of the ministers are evaded. I will give you cases, because these are best remembered. Many a long year and day ago, there was an excellent minister of the name of Mr. Gray, and he got his son, whom I knew, a highly-esteemed Old Light—a better never lived—he got his son to be appointed his assistant and successor. The people gave the father £100 a-year, and they gave his son £80; which in those days was perhaps better than the Free Church ministers are paid at the present time. It was most creditable to the congrega-