

Two things are very clear :

1. Injustice to the pastor is ruinous to the cause of religion in the Church. An illiberal, penurious spirit is fatal to piety. It is deliberate, heretofore cherished sin; and if the grace of God ever saves the individual who indulges it, it first rescues him from its power. Men are not saved in their sins, but from their sins. Such a spirit is apt to be contagious. It spreads like all other evil examples; and the consequences are coldness, apathy, and spiritual dearth. No penurious Christian ever prospers in the divine life; no penurious Church ever grows in strength, and energy, and piety. No people either work or pray earnestly who do not give liberally; and hence the few revivals, the slow growth, the sickly existence of hundreds of our Churches.

2. It is an evil with which pastors cannot effectually deal. The pastor can preach against covetousness, commend the self-sacrificing spirit of the gospel, and beg for others; but he cannot ask for justice, or even beg charity for himself. At least it is a most ungracious task, a hard and cruel office for any man to be forced to take on himself, much less a Christian minister, whose character is so invaluable to himself and to the Church, and who more than any other man is liable to be misunderstood and defamed. Rather than do it, many an excellent minister has retired with broken health and bleeding heart from the pastoral office; and many more are struggling on in the ministry, whose carefully concealed penury and hidden sorrows no eye but God's ever looks upon;—none feel but themselves, and those whom they carry in their bosoms.

In my next I will consider the question, what is a fair and just ministerial support?"

AT EVENING TIME THERE SHALL BE LIGHT.

"At evening time there shall be light,"

Yes, when old age shall come,
And night's dark shades obscure the path
By which we're travelling home.
When, wildered by the gathering gloom,
Appalling doubts arise,
The first pure beams of heavenly light,
Shall brighten all the skies.

"At evening time there shall be light,"

Oh! promise ever sweet,
To those who tread an unknown way,
With faint and faltering feet.
They need not fear the coming hours,
When daylight shall be past,
Since He who knows that pathway well,
Has promised light at last.