

already, and still increasing, and should alone receive the countenance of Christian parents.

QUESTIONS TO CHURCH MEMBERS ON THE DUTY OF SUPPORTING THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD.

Christian duty is the same all the world over, and the considerations which may be presented to Christians in one country with a view to prompt and incite them to duty, may be equally applicable to Christians in other lands. The duty of supporting the ministry of the Word is one which lies on all who are connected with the Christian Church. It is a duty, however, which, in almost all churches, needs to be frequently and forcibly urged on the attention of professing Christians. The attention of our brethren in Ireland is specially directed to this point. They have a 'Committee on Ministerial Support,' whose special duty it is to correspond with congregations and office-bearers, with the view to raise the standard of individual and congregational liberality. They have lately issued in the Herald, an address which we subjoin, in the belief that it may do good on this side of the Atlantic:—

"DEAR BRETHREN,—Will you bear with us in asking your attention to a few questions on this important subject? It has been committed to us by our Assembly to deal with you respecting it. And we have been specially instructed by the committee who share this trust with us, to address a few words to you explanatory of our views of your duty and responsibility. We put them in the form of questions, that they may be more easily expressed and understood."

1. *Have you considered the subject?* It is surely a duty to do so. God has spoken upon it in His Word, and it involves many interests affecting the glory of God, the maintenance of religion, and the good of mankind. It must, therefore, be criminal to neglect it. Have you, then, thought upon it? Have you consulted the Divine Word respecting it? Have you prayed that you may know the will of God, and do it? It is to be feared that there are many who have done none of these things. They have not laid the subject to heart. They have not sought Divine teaching upon it. They have no settled conviction of what is their duty; and, therefore, we must ask them to ponder the solemn testimony—"Whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

2. *Have you considered your responsibility to your minister?* This is very great. You have called him to be your teacher. This you account to be one of your high privileges. You have the man of your own choice. In your call you promised to give him an adequate support while engaged in the work of ministering to your instruction. Have you fulfilled that promise? Have you kept the faith so solemnly plighted to him? We have known instances of young men who have been thus called to the ministry who had no means of livelihood besides those which their people were to furnish, and who yet have been left for months without receiving any compensation for their labours at a time when it was most needful. Of all the people none seemed to consider how the minister was to live. No one asked him where or how he found food, or clothing, or lodging. Until he was compelled to break silence and complain of neglect, at the peril of his usefulness, none seemed to think or care for him. Let all such remember the word of the Lord—"Pay that which thou hast vowed. Better it is that thou shouldst not vow, than that thou shouldst vow and not pay."

3. *Have you considered the claims of your minister?* Look at his position. How has he attained to it? His parents early dedicated him to this work. Their prayers were heard, and their training acknowledged, and his heart was inclined towards it. He spent his youth in preparatory instruction for it. He passed through a long, laborious, and expensive collegiate course. He was subjected to the trials of his presbytery; and, after satisfying its members with his attainments, literary, theological, and religious, he was licensed to be a