

Easter Monday, the day appointed by the Church herself for reckoning with her people, should be indicating its near approach, because to the faithful working of our vestries I look for relief from all our difficulties. It is the general custom among persons who love order and security in their affairs, and would neither wrong others nor themselves to make out at the close of every year a correct statement of their receipts and expenditure, and carefully to balance their accounts; and from the result to draw rules and inferences for their future guidance. This practice is found of so much importance that most of those who adopt it prosper, while those who neglect it sooner or later fall into ruin.

Now the Church, acknowledging the truth of the Divine maxim, that the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light, has adopted an annual day of reckoning, and for this purpose has appointed Easter Monday. And I speak from experience, when I say that in those parishes where the vestries regularly meet and enter upon this reckoning conscientiously, and as before the Lord, and with the same precision and accuracy as faithful Stewards, Merchants, and Bankers do; the affairs of such parishes thrive and prosper. Every reasonable want is met and satisfied; and peace and contentment are established throughout the parish and congregation.

But in parishes where the vestries are not conscientious but careless, and the Churchwardens forgetful and negligent in the discharge of their duties, the affairs of the parish soon fall into irretrievable disorder and distress, and contentions follow. The truth of all this no one acquainted with the workings of our vestries will dispute, for it is of daily experience. You will not therefore be surprised when I avow, that I address myself on this occasion more especially to the vestries, and attribute to them the prosperity or decay of their respective parishes. Hence the remedy for all the parochial evils of which we complain is within yourselves, and may be effectually applied by every congregation which acts conscientiously. Now, as regards the claim of every clergyman on his congregation for the descent support of himself and family, I do not urge it as a claim upon your liberality, but upon your justice; for he has the same moral claim on his people for an adequate stipend, as the lawyer has on his clients, or the physician on his patients, for their fees, or as the merchant has for his profits, the soldier for his pay, or the labourer for his hard-earned wages.

The truth of this no christian can doubt; for Holy Scripture teaches that it is ordained that they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel. Hence your obedience to this command is required not merely for the sake of the clergy, and their households, cast as they have been on the care of Providence, but for your own benefit, as well as the interests of our beloved Church in