

On this point two or three practical difficulties seem to be in the way of attaining the much wished for end. Such as come to our mind we submit with the utmost deference. The most simple and satisfactory course would be to increase the income of our Missionary Society, add something to present subscriptions for pastoral support, and claim the promised aid. Failing this, we turn to face the difficulties, and should some smile at them and their solution, let those who can suggest better remedies do so.

First: in the rural Churches a wrong impression prevails. It is this—that the minister keeps a horse for his own benefit. This costs from \$60 to \$100 per annum—a serious item out of \$500 a year, to say nothing of the purchase of necessary vehicles for winter and summer use, with all the other items of expenditure connected with the wear and tear of the same. Now if the Churches would just think that it is for their benefit, and assume the responsibility of providing for their pastor's horse, what an addition would the pastor thus realize to his hitherto inadequate income. This would not be a heavy matter, if a proper arrangement were made placing equally on the families of the congregation this just responsibility.

Another difficulty is, that few of our Churches have parsonages, hence in many cases nearly one-fourth of the income is swallowed up in rent. On this point I must not enlarge, but I think that a determined effort on the part of the whole membership would in a few years overcome the difficulty.

The other is the only additional difficulty; we refer to our Missionary Society. And we ask—instead of the rule that now obtains favor could not one be adopted, more likely to relieve the oppressed? Could not the Society say we *must* raise the standard of remuneration if we are to carry on our work vigorously?

Seeing that our friends in England have acknowledged that this reform is needed, and that one in a responsible position has said "that he always thought their stipends too small," it does seem, since many have left us, and that others have serious thoughts of following them, or consider themselves as "moveable," that some bolder policy should be introduced.

If all our Churches were notoriously delinquent, then the rule that obtains would be just. But if many of them are doing nearly their utmost in this matter, it is hard to punish the innocent with the guilty.

In view of these facts, could not an advance be made, if not from last year's surplus, by a special application for that purpose? If this could be done even to a small extent, coupled with the assumption on the part of the churches of the expenses already referred to, much of the present pressure would be relieved.

But if these suggestions are naught, then spare the oft-repeated note concerning "a smaller grant next year," which though addressed to the Churches, and meant kindly, falls nevertheless most keenly upon the pastor.

Praying that some definite and wise action be taken by our Churches and Missionary Society to keep the men we have, that brethren have patience to do the Lord's work in our growing country, and that many of our young men may give themselves to the blessed work, I remain yours sincerely,

RICHARD LEWIS.

Lanark, Nov. 8, 1867.