

HOME MISSIONS AND MONEY.

One error begets another ; so does one extreme produce an opposite extreme. Reformers, good and true men, have gone to the extreme in shouting out, *No money for preaching*, AND THE PREACHERS HAVE PREACHED THIS TOO,—and now we have every needful sign and symptom that the other extreme will be taken—*No preaching without money*. We protest with all our might against extremes, for they are always one sided limping cripples, never standing erect, nor working smoothly or efficiently. But the *Banner* will hear both sides : We therefore ask attention to the following copied from the “ Christian Age,” Cincinnati :—

We have seen, that notwithstanding all the Bibles in the land, there is still a necessity for vocal preaching. Not to make a new gospel and preach it, any more than we want a school teacher to make new school books and teach them ; but teach the same old gospel that was first taught by the apostles, “ For if any man preach any other gospel, let him be accursed.” But how shall they preach except they be sent ? Each member of the church is alike interested in having the gospel preached, and we might as well expect our children to get up a school, and employ a teacher without the assistance of their parents, as to expect our ungodly citizens to get up a meeting, and have preaching, without the assistance of the Christians ; and, as we do not expect Christ from heaven, to do anything more than he has already done, in sending men to preach, we therefore take the position that it is the duty of the church, or churches, to send out missionaries to preach. But you may ask, why can not preachers go and preach as well now, without being sent by the churches, as they did a few years ago ? I answer, they can, and if it is the Lord’s order that some men should go from their homes and endure the hardships of preaching the gospel, pay their own expenses, and bring distress on their families, while other men are permitted to stay at home all the time, and gather in abundance of the good things of this life, then let it be so. Preachers have gone and preached, without being sent by the church ; but how have they done it ? Leaving you to judge the difficulties, and almost impossibilities of those preachers, who, without any estate, have had to depend upon their daily labor to sustain their families, and yet have went and preached, I select a preacher and his wife, with a moderate estate, sufficient to make a good living if promptly attended to, for an example to all the rest.

You will please go back with me a few years ago, when the sentiment was prevalent that preachers must go and preach, at the hazard of all things. The Lord will provide for his servants, was the cry. Not that he would send the ravens to feed them, or give them manna from heaven, but he would provide for them somehow. I here remember the rebuke of a tavern-keeper against this idea, which I never shall forget. I was compelled to lodge with him one cold night. Next morning, finding I had not money enough to pay my bill, I told