

advanced into a somewhat matured condition, it is our duty to cultivate the principle of self-reliance; and the first care of every circuit should therefore be, to meet, as soon as possible, its own expenditure. In many of our older stations, and in other places where, though our ministry has been more recently introduced, the population has rapidly increased, we think this might be accomplished by a determined effort. And even where it could not at present be done, the resolution to approach as nearly as possible to it, and to attain it whenever practicable, would be of essential service.

At the same time, we desire specially to call your attention to the fact that we are all united by the connexional principle. By means of this and our itinerancy, the weakest and most isolated circuits partake to a very considerable extent of the same pastoral care and oversight as the larger and wealthier. By the proper operation of our financial economy, not only do the stronger assist the weaker, but the gospel finds its way into destitute localities; and these "having nourishment ministered," and being "knit together, make increase of the Church with the increase of God." This system we endeavor to carry out, not only because of its adaptation to the wants of the world at large, but because it is the scriptural plan. "Not boasting of things without our measure, that is of other men's labors; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly, to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hands."

On this ground we again commend to your notice and support our Contingent or Home Mission Fund. For aid in behalf of the poorer circuits, we cannot always be dependent on the Missionary Committee; and if "the laborer," who, according to Divine testimony, is "worthy of his hire," be deprived of it, he is either tempted to abandon the ministry, or must continue to exercise its functions with a weight of worldly troubles upon his heart. To relieve such cases—alas, too numerous—and to multiply our staff of efficient evangelists, this fund has been established. In some circuits a good beginning has been made, but in others we regret to say that it has been nearly overlooked. Help us, dear brethren, according to the ability which God hath given you. If placed in such a position as to render its aid unnecessary, then offer to God through this medium a tribute of gratitude for superior advantages; and if you are among the recipients of this bounty, show that you are nevertheless actuated by the sentiment of the Lord Jesus, that "it is more blessed to give than to receive."

We feel persuaded that nothing more is required to secure your support of the "Worn-out Ministers' and Ministers' Widows'

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