

do wrong to expend even a cent on it ; but if it is the cause of God, think for a moment, as in His presence, whether or not you have done too much, or whether we ask you to do too much. If it is worth while to build a church and to pay a stipend it is equally worth while to build a Manse. All we ask is that you make due provision for the maintainance of the ordinances of religion. Give the Minister a respectable stipend and a comfortable home. Nothing short of this will do ; our church cannot be regarded as in a satisfactory position till we have attained to this point

In the last volume of the *PRESBYTERIAN HISTORICAL ALMANAC* there is an admirable article on the subject of Manses which we commend to such of our readers as possess that valuable work. Mr. Wilson found that in the Old School Presbyterian Church the Ministers who had Manses saved by that means an average of \$134 per annum. Of 6708 Presbyterian Ministers in the United States only 530 are provided with Manses. The state of affairs with us is not quite so bad as this but it is sufficiently bad to prove alarming to those who take the most profound interest in the prosperity of the Church.

As a general rule Ministers should not turn farmers, half-farmers, or speculators in any direction. We are aware that in some anomalous circumstances it is a necessity : the alternative is before the Minister of leaving his post, or starving, or turning his attention to farming or some other avocation. This is a most cruel fate. This is treatment that cannot be characterized by a milder term than gross injustice. It interferes in every direction with the Minister's efficiency and it must have a blasting influence on the spiritual interests of the Congregation. The great object to be aimed at is to make such a provision for the Minister as that he can without distraction pursue his holy calling. Every Congregation is morally bound to use all its exertions for the attainment of this object. No excuse is valid at the bar of God except absolute impossibility. This is taking high ground ; but we are convinced that it is right ground.

Let us now look for a moment at the benefits that would result from comfortable Manses being provided for all our Ministers.

It would be a great relief to the minds and to the pockets of the Ministers. Imagine a Minister receiving a small stipend having to pay fifteen or twenty pounds of that stipend for rent ! Suppose the stipend is £150. Take £15 for house rent ; take £10 for charities—£15 for attending meetings of Church Courts—£10 for needful books and periodicals (a most inadequate allowance)—and how much is left for the maintainance of himself and his family ? Provide him with a Manse and glebe and you at once add from £40 to £50 to his stipend. Ministers, like other men, like to have a house from which they cannot be ousted at the fiat of a surly landlord—a home round which may cluster all the fond associations of memory and fancy. To quote the words of Dr. HALL, the able and accomplished Editor of the *Journal of Health* : the Minister would not then have his mind diverted from his great and appropriate work by the uncongenial pressure of worldly matters, " by the chilling study of how to meet necessary expenditure ; by devising annoying, and perplexing, and humiliating make-shifts ; and by the hard necessity of having to turn a deaf ear and a cold eye and a heartless denial upon the mendicant, the fallen and the unfortunate at the door while at the same time he was penning in his study an appeal to his people for the habitual exercise of godlike charity. The Minister would then be as he ought always to have been, an example to his people in every good word and work.

In many of our Congregations it is impossible for a Minister to rent a