

Thus, after defraying a few necessary expenses, there remains to the minister the handsome sum of £33 10s. to feed, clothe, and educate a family of perhaps 7 or 8.

But even tho' it be possible for a minister to rub along on such a salary by farming and other means, are these congregations coming up to their engagements? I would remind them that, to my certain knowledge, some of them at least are pledged formally and solemnly to do considerably more than they have yet done. It was never the understanding of any of these ministers, in accepting a call, or of the Presbytery in settling them, that the emolument given should continue *long* at so low a figure. The pledge upon which all parties acted was, that, ere long, adequate support would be raised.

It is high time these pledges were redeemed. During the last few years the expense of living has increased fully 25 per cent. This has been severely felt by all persons living on limited incomes, especially by ministers. Never was there a more favourable time; never stronger reasons for these congregations fully coming up to, and, if possible, *exceeding* their pledges. £150 or £130 is the very lowest sum which, in those hard times, they should aim at. If no attempt of the kind is now made, "may not the impartial world with reason say," that it is neither the intention nor the wish of these congregations *ever* to make it.—Let them not imagine that the Churches, either of their own or of other denominations, are ignorant of their pledges, obligations, circumstances, and doings.—Surely these things are known.

But I have as yet assumed that the small salary promised is punctually paid, quarterly and in advance, as the arrangement generally is. Now, Mr Editor, being a privileged character, I have sometimes had an opportunity of glancing over a minister's Memorandum Book, and I have ascertained that this is by no means the case in numerous instances. The quarter's salary if paid in advance is due, say on the 31st December, 1855. But instead of being paid at the day, in one payment, by the Treasurer, and in money, according to agreement, the account will run pretty much as follows:

Rec'd Jan. 10, 1856, from A	£1	1	6
14, " " B	1	5	0
26, " " C	12	6	

Feb. 29, " " D			
20 lbs. flour		5	0
Apr. 10, 1856, from E	10	10	0
May " " F			
3½ bush. potatoes		10	6
June 10, 1856, from E	12	0	0

The quarter's salary which was due on 31st December, 1855, is thus paid about the middle June, 1856. Meantime the good christian people are probably taking it quite coolly.

Of course, as your correspondent very justly remarks, they would "feel themselves disgraced by their minister attending his own horse," they could not think of such a thing. But how in reality must our worthy pastor be getting on? Does any one need to be told that a minister paid in such driblets, and receiving a small pittance at the best, must be compelled, unless he either run in debt, or beg, or steal, not only to groom his own horse, but plant and build, cut wood, become errand boy, and fifty other things, in order to live. Truly a minister, in such a situation, must be careful and troubled about many things. He must take great delight in his profession to enjoy any comfort.

Congregations like these certainly never lose sight of the important truth that their ministers have bread to eat that *they* know not of.

How is it possible that a man placed in such a position can have either heart or time to study, to visit, or discharge any other service as he would wish?—Whoever expects it I cannot.

Being a very disinterested and benevolent person, and hence always annoyed by every thing like inconsistency or injustice, particularly in relation to ministers, I have sometimes felt provoked at the conduct of those congregations in another respect. While perfectly aware that the stipend paid is altogether inadequate, they wish to shut their eyes to the fact. Perhaps are zealous, and successful too, raising funds for other objects, as Foreign Missions, Bible Societies, and to improve and ornament their Church and the like. They can devise means to accomplish such measures while nothing can be done to make up a respectable salary for the clergyman.—Should they not strive to be just before they are generous? We often hear of Bazaars, Tea Meetings, &c., for various benevolent and religious purposes, might not the ladies in each of these weak congregations hold an annual Tea Meeting