towns, the difficulty would be at once removed. In stating this circumstance, we do not wish to reflect upon the agricultural community, who constitute the bone and sinew of the country. There are, doubtless, causes that may account for this difference in liberality between city and country congregations. It is the difference of circumstances, however, that accounts for it. For, group together, miscellaneously, a hundred members of a town with a hundred of a rural charge, and you will find that, in substantial wealth, and in the amount laid by from year to year, the latter, with, inneed, far less outward show, are superior to the former. But the farmer, on the other hand, having less money passing through his pocket, and having the chief support of his family derived from the farm, commits the *double error of attaching an undue value to money*, as *compared with produce*, and of giving his minister the credit of having (in cloud-land) a store, which, like his own farm, supplies him with nearly all his necessary provisions. On the contrary, the citizen, having everything to purchase, is well aware of the nature of family expenses, and makes allowance for them in *contributing towards ministerial support*.

But we feel that we would be doing injustice to our people did we not allude to another cause of inadequate pastoral support. In common with all our brethren in the ministry, we confess that we are men of like passions with our people, and plead guilty to many shortcomings in duty. Have we not among us those who are not so faithful, zealous and earnest as they ought to be? A brother minister once remarked to us, "I always find that, wherever a pastor is labouring earnestly, and with his whole soul in the work, the question of financial difficulties rarely arises; but when there are coldness and half-heartedness in the work, troubles, pecuniary and otherwise, are sure to occur." We do not presume to say how far the observation of our fellow-labourer is correct, or to pass judgment on our brethren. His remark is, at least, worthy of prayerful consideration—the more especially as he is a notable example of what devoted earnestness can accomplish, when crowned with the divine blessing.

There is one column in the tables from which we shrink with instinctive dread and dislike, and whose increase and decrease we watch with the same interest as the farmer scrutinizes the weather in the most critical state of his crops. Need we explain this column to be that headed "Arrears actually due?" While exhibiting a considerable diminution, since special attention was called to the subject, yet it still exceeds $5,000, or about 1-32 of the whole fund. *The difficult problem to solve is, what is to be done with it?* and, like the squaring of the circle, when one obstacle in the way is removed, another unexpectedly arises. But is it not possible to wipe out these arrears?

On examining them, it is seen that more than three-fifths of the amount are found in the Presbyteries of Montreal, Grey, and Ontario, and that in the other Presbyteries a very small effort would place them in the same position as those of Paris and Stratford. What we suggest is this: It will be found that by dealing with the defaulting congregations, they will, in almost every case, be ready to liquidate one-half of their indebtedness. Let the Presbytery assume the other half, and raise it by assessment on the members. The following table will show how small the amount required from each Presbytery will be :—

	Debt.	Share of Presbytery.	Assess't per cent.
Ottawa	$180. 00	$ 90 00	about 5 cents
Brockville	250 00	125 00	15