

designs of the social principle. While believers are called to exultation before God, they are reminded that they have abundant cause to rejoice with one another; and thus to become more united in the bonds of the Gospel. And ought not sinners to cherish a spirit of gladness, not that they are still under the influence of moral corruption, but that they have a more favorable opportunity to obtain deliverance from it. Should not this be their feeling of mutual congratulation; ought they not to avail themselves of their advantages, with the utmost eagerness; and thus, like those who have already believed, have an entrance into the Kingdom of God? As respects the public ordinances of religion, therefore, let it form the chief solicitude of all, that, through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, their gracious designs be accomplished.

As our church is voluntary in its constitution, so your duty to support religious institutions, in proportion to your ability, is plain. The doctrine of the scriptures on this subject is clear and explicit. "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things." "The Lord hath ordained, that they which preach the gospel, should live of the gospel."* To insure the prosperity of a congregation, its secular arrangements ought to form an object of careful attention. System, activity, and perseverance, are essential. Without these, there must soon be confusion and failure. Such, therefore, as are appointed to superintend interests of this nature, ought, if they can be found, to be persons of discretion, diligence, and zeal. In this, as in every other cause, much can be accomplished by cordial co-operation. If any member of a church should be placed in circumstances so indigent as to render him unable to contribute for the support of religion, it would be cruel and unchristian to refuse

* 1 Cor. ix. 11, 14.