

Protestant ministers, Presbyterian ministers will not be hood-winked or silenced on this great question that affects their freedom and the welfare of the State.

Ministers of the Gospel should not hesitate to let their people know that they are deeply interested in this great question, that they are deeply interested in every public question, that they give thought and study to them, that they watch their progress, that they are ready to fight for the right that is in them, and smite the wrong that is in them.

But what do ministers know about these practical things? On a very slender thread of evidence there is hung a weighty assertion, that ministers are not practical men. It is not true. They are in the highest sense practical. It is true the minister may not be able to make a shoe, but he can tell when a shoe trade is honestly carried on as quickly as another man. It is true he may not be able to manage the intricacies of a great railway line, but he can tell when these lines are run so as to be injurious to the physical and moral welfare of the men employed. He may not be the most competent man to manage a party caucus. But, by applying God's measure, he can tell as well as any other man whether political actions are right or wrong, and therefore beneficial or injurious to the community.

Therefore, when they say to us, "keep to what you understand, and do not meddle with politics," we may reply that we have equal advantages even with politicians, for understanding ethical questions in trade and politics, and social questions in trade and politics.

Ministers of the Gospel are inclined to take high moral ground on every question, and simply because they do so, other things being equal, their judgements