

*Dear Brethren in the LORD JESUS CHRIST :*

Permit me to address you on a subject that has for some years past borne with weight on my mind. When I was led out to make a profession of Religion, as I trust by the sweet influence of the Spirit of God, I considered it my indispensable duty to make a full surrender of myself, Soul and Body, Name and Estate. When I first went into the world, to settle myself in the affairs of life, Providence placed my lot in the woods, where, by perseverance and industry, I was enabled to procure a comfortable supply of the necessities of life, and to lay the foundation of an estate for my children, after I have gone the way of all flesh, which may make them comfortable as to the things of time, if they make a wise improvement thereof. At the same period of time that I went into the world to take an active part, some of my dear Brethren, who were not disobedient to the Heavenly Call, went into the Ministry, feeling a sense of the great worth of precious and immortal souls, that must exist through the wasteless ages of eternity, in the name of their Lord and Master to warn them to flee from the wrath to come. They no doubt felt a necessity laid upon them, and a "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel." They have spent their time and strength, and some are advanced in the decline of life; and as Mr. Benedict has expressed so much of my mind in his general observations, I will borrow his language, as I should mar the subject, were I to attempt to mend it—"Ministers who have long borne the burden and heat of the day, who have exhausted the energies of their nature in the service of their brethren, who have sacrificed every worldly consideration to be incessantly engaged in the service of the sanctuary, are too often abandoned in the decline of life, by those very Churches they have been the instruments of building up, and shifted off to seek their living among their children and relatives, among sympathetic people of the world, or wherever they can find it. If the laws of nature and of God bind children to provide for their parents when they are old, what obligations are imposed on the children of the church, to comfort and support their spiritual fathers while tottering down the declivity of age! But for this duty, (and almost every other where money is in question) many plead inability. But I have, for the most part, no belief in this plea. Many, it is true, are poor, but there is among our brethren abundance of worldly substance, which they are treasuring up for their heirs. When they came into the church they professed to