

porting congregations. Last year, aid-receiving congregations contributed for ministerial stipend at the rate of \$7.15 per communicant, whereas the self-supporting contributed at the rate of \$4.90 per communicant for the same purpose. Were the self-supporting to contribute for ministerial support at the rate of the aid-receiving, they would raise \$150,000 more than they are now doing. Would it be unreasonable then to expect them to raise the whole \$35,000 additional, required for this work?

In presenting this matter to different congregations, I have received much encouragement, and have come to the conclusion that the matter requires only to be fairly stated to receive a hearty response. After stating the case as in the preceding pages, one gentleman, unsolicited, promised \$200 for the first year to launch the scheme. A lady sent me a cheque for \$150. Another gentleman sent me a letter containing a \$100 bill, with directions not to let his name be known, but to forward it to the most muzzled minister I knew. A boy sent me \$2.00 out of his pocket money, and a servant girl, probably newly out from the Old Country, gave me two sixpences. These are a few instances out of many that could be stated. If a like spirit were general, the thing could be easily accomplished; for after all it is not great in itself—not great as compared with our ability. Yet, in another sense, it is great. It is great in regard to the amount of good which this money would accomplish. Think how many cares and hardships and privations it would abolish; how much sunshine it would bring to those who, though never complaining, have a weary struggle to maintain from year to year. Surely we dare not say in regard to this work, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Some there may be who have no heart for this work, who will never be at a loss to excuse themselves, and say in the most crabbed of accents, “I will not give you a cent”; but there are others who, like a good lady, whom we met, will ask with pain, “Why did you not tell us this before, that we might put an end to such a scandal.” Only let each one lay this matter before the Lord, and all will be well. For our encouragement and warning, let me conclude with

#### A PARABLE:

There was a certain rich man whose name was Nabal,