

ing you, that, were the ministry ever so covetous, so reckless as to sell its birth-right for a mess of pottage, we, at least, are not so ignorant as to suppose that the present current of thought and feeling, the habits and calculations of the churches, would not lay a most effectual or impassable barrier to progress in such a course, rendering it not only impossible but foolish to attempt to enslave in this manner, either the people or their finances:—That we are not so ignorant, if the world were our chief pursuit, of innumerable opportunities of accumulating wealth which lie all around us, in a new and extensive and enterprising country, with vast resources opening up on every hand; we know that commerce, by land and sea, lifts up its affluent hand and beckons even the most languid and timid to share her rewards, and points to the poor of yesterday made rich to-day through the forth-putting of some puny efforts or the hazard of some trifling sum. It would be gross ignorance in any man to choose the ministry, with all its difficulties, as a means of wealth, it would be folly to choose it and reject the opportunities presented to other callings, were such our aim, and he who can suppose the ministry to be actuated by such motives, must either himself be very ignorant, or imagine that the ministry is very ignorant as to the laws operating against it and favorable to all other citizens in the race for riches.

But we ask what is our right; we ask for a competency. This is allotted to us by our Master; in whose name and in the name of justice we prefer our claim. The ministry is a work performed by men, not by angels, in this world, and calls for worldly outlay like any other honest work. Ministers require good clothing, shelter and fuel, beds and sandals, like other men, they must be conveyed from place to place; like other men, they are liable to disease, and like other men should receive medical attendance. Like other men, they are at liberty to lead about a wife or a sister, and like other men they are bound to supply things necessary for use to those whom they lead about, like other men, they are to provide for their families, and if they neglect this duty,

like other men, they are worse than infidels and deny the faith. Like other good men, they are to be liberal and benevolent, to give, given to hospitality—a pattern to the flock in all good and kind works; like other men they are unable to work miracles to supply bodily wants; as with other men so with them, their garments grow old, their houses leaky, their carriages wear, their horses die, their cruse of oil fails, and their barrel of flour wastes. Nature makes no exemption in their favour from the wear and tear which constantly and so heavily draw upon the resources of other men. If they have servants they must pay for them, like other men; if they buy, like other men, they require gold and silver, and their pound will not go farther than, sometimes not so far as, that of other men.

In looking at necessary expenditure in order to ascertain what a competency means, we must not forget that every calling, besides what is in this respect common to it and all other avocations, has its own peculiar outlay. The doctor, the lawyer, the farmer, the mechanic, the merchant, the artist, all, have expenses peculiar to their vocation. So with the minister. His library is, or ought, to be annually replenished, at no trifling cost. To think that a man can preach, as he ought, without books, is to suppose that God has more need of our ignorance than of our learning, is to dissociate the present mind from all the past, to suppose that human thought is not quickened by hints from human thought, does not accumulate on the stores of others, is to break up the connection and continuity of the Church on this point, to rudely and foolishly close the store house of past generations from supplying our wants, to strangely imagine that one man can do as much thinking as all the past generation of thinkers and all the present generation, or that one man can, thus isolated from all his surroundings, think out as much as any congregation in truth requires! Ministers must have libraries, real ones, not the shadows of libraries—hundreds of pounds, if the pulpit is to meet the demands of the age, must be spent on this item alone. It