

THE
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MINISTERIAL SUPPORT.

This subject has become one of vital moment. We have uttered our warning time and again : we have written about it till many of our readers are weary of reading what we write. But we dare not desist, while a dark cloud, big with tempest, lowers over our church. Is it possible to be silent when we see our young men driven away from the ministry of the church by the prospect of abject penury--when we see congregations making promises which they are not ashamed to break--when we know that more than half the ministers of our church are inadequately supported ? It is high time that all our people, rich and poor, should give the subject their most careful consideration.--Cases of destitution have come under our own notice which we cannot, of course, make public, but which we can describe in no softer word than **HEART-RENDING**. It may be that some of our readers could discover some of these cases if they tried!

Progress of the most gratifying description has been made in some portions of our church. We may specify the Presbytery of Pictou as especially praiseworthy in its efforts to meet the pressing emergency. The congregations have been visited ; the claims of the Gospel have been pressed upon their attention ; and in general the result has been highly satisfactory. The Presbytery of Prince Edward Island has not been idle. We trust that the able and timely appeal of Rev. Isaac Murray, issued with the imprimatur of the Presbytery, shall

not escape the attention of the Eldership generally. Much, very much, has to be done before the sustentation of the ministry is in a satisfactory state in Prince Edward Island. The work has been too long neglected ; and it will therefore prove doubly difficult. The Cape Breton Presbyteries have also a most serious task before them. That noble island is rapidly increasing in wealth and intelligence. Some of the congregations deal honestly and liberally with their pastors ; but others are falling sadly behind : indeed not a few of them have always failed in their duty. For the sake of the fair fame of that beautiful and wealthy island, we trust that this reproach shall be wiped away, and that Cape Breton in this as in other things, shall become an example to other portions of the Church.

The small and compact Presbytery of Tatamagouche has been stirring up the people to a sense of their obligations, with what success we cannot say now, but we hope to see evidences of progress in the statistics to be submitted to the next Synod. Some of the stipends have hitherto been inadequate in the extreme ; but we hope and believe that there is progress. The Presbytery of Truro is hardly second to that of Pictou in the average amount paid to ministers, and in the promptitude with which payments are made. Still there is room for improvement in the *amount* of the stipends. The Presbytery of Halifax has within its bounds a large proportion of weak congregations, and the ministers on an average are but poorly paid. We have no doubt that the poorest of these congre-