

church came to reckon up at the close of the year, the \$100 were kept from the amount of the salary promised. This is not a solitary case. I have known several others of a like kind. Let churches pay their honest debts and give their ministers salaries on which they can live, before they make "donation visits."

At an Association meeting, a member of the church where the association met, said to me at the close of the first meeting, "I have been deeply grieved and disappointed with our meeting. I fully expected that it would be a religious meeting, but the whole talk has been about money." I asked, "Is it religious to take part of that money for the support of your pastor? I am not aware that you have ever expressed either grief or disappointment on the reception of the quarterly allowances from our Society. We have not only to *talk* about money, but we have to put forth considerable effort and to exercise much self-denial in collecting it, and I think that *gratitude* at least should make up part of your religion." This man's ideas of religion are those of many others—singing psalms, uttering prayer and having a "*good time*;" but forgetting that "they who preach the Gospel should live by the Gospel," that "the labourer is worthy of his hire," "owe no man anything," "the Lord loveth a cheerful giver," &c., are parts of Christ's religion, and that mercy, more than psalm-singing, will be the test in the great judgment day.

A minister asked a member of his church to purchase an article for him at a distant city. This he did, thinking to save a few dollars to eke out his small salary. The article was purchased and brought home in the member's vessel, which returned in ballast. When his yearly subscription was paid, he kept off two dollars for freight, and, what think you?—a dollar for *commission*.

It has often baffled me to know how ministers get along on the miserable pittance allowed them by the churches. It is *genteel poverty*—or *beggary*—or *aid* from relatives or friends. We profess to glory in the self-sustaining power of Christianity. Is it any wonder that ministers look out for more eligible spheres of labour? or that young men hesitate in giving themselves up to the work of the ministry? It is no wonder.

I am satisfied Professor Cornish has hit the right nail on the head. May "the words of the wise be as goads, and nails fastened by the master of assemblies." But I have wandered away from my text. The following account, which appeared some years ago in a religious periodical, are worthy of being pondered by all who are sincerely concerned for the honour of religion, and the efficiency of our churches. The article is headed, "Something very strange." It is as follows:—

"Near the close of the year 18—, the members of — church assembled, in accordance with their usual custom, at their usual place of worship, to provide for the pastor's salary for the year ensuing. Deacon M. presided, and calling the meeting to order, he looked over the goodly number of brethren present with evident satisfaction. Many of the sisters were there too—widows and single ladies who had no one to represent them, but who were anxious to add their contributions for the support of the Gospel. The Deacon then stated the object of the meeting, by a few remarks on the importance of the Gospel, the necessity of having ministers to proclaim it, and then adverted to their own obligations, as a church and as individuals, to give liberal support to their worthy pastor. Each member manifested a deep interest in the deacon's address, and when he requested them to *come forward and sub-*