

Let me, then, in the absence of "able papers," say a few words that may be applicable to our position in Canada.

For many years have I had deeply at heart the prosperity of our Congregational Churches, but for years was puzzled and grieved that so many promising young men, educated in our College, should leave the country and find homes and fields of labor "across the line."

A few years in the pastorate reveals the mystic cause, for, from all that I have been able to gather, inadequate support has been the principal cause of their removal. If then, these brethren, years ago, were compelled to remove for this cause, why should it be thought surprising that latterly others have felt that they must seek for fields of labor where they would not be crushed with oppressing and wearing anxieties to make ends meet? So long then as this pressure is felt, as at the present time in many quarters, will men be unsettled in their work. For there is no disguising the fact, that if a pastor is harassed to provide for his household, he cannot give, as he ought, a whole-souled attention to the duties of his sacred office.

This is admitted—what then is the remedy? How are our ministers, as a body, to be better paid?

Strike for Independence, and develop the resources of the churches, say the ultras. Consolidation, careful husbanding of our means, and judicious action in uniting weak Churches with a view to speedy independence, say the moderate men; while the more conservative say, Hold fast what thou hast, and be thankful—our friends across the water are willing to help us—they mean well, only they like to work in their own way.

Whom shall we follow? The first-named can scarcely expect a sufficient increase of subscriptions from members and adherents to justify such a step as they propose, especially if any should be so wicked as to compare their giving with that of others. We know men will do this, though they should not.

The second course is more reasonable, yet in this there is danger of injuring two churches by giving to one pastor the work of two, and in many cases would, we believe, be simply ruinous.

The last-named have reason to believe that the Colonial Missionary Society and their newly-appointed secretary approve the policy, now seeking to augment the stipends of Canadian Congregational ministers.

In the November number of this magazine, Dr. Wilkes says, "They would have us continue to encourage the Churches to pay their pastors better, by granting aid on condition of the Churches doing more for themselves." *But there's the rub.* We believe that not a few of our Churches are doing about all that can reasonably be expected towards pastoral support. Others, we believe, are far from being up to the mark, and these, either from bad training or early association with larger bodies, are the hardest to bring up to the proper standard.

Until this is done, we do not see, if the Society's rule be carried out, any immediate prospect of the desired increase. We are thus placed in a dilemma—how shall we get out of it? Surely, not by sleight of men or cunning craftiness; but, by a steady purpose, keeping distinctly before us the grand object of all our exertions, the prosperity of Christ's kingdom, taking the expressed desire of those who have helped us, and who are willing still to do so, as an indication of encouragement, on one hand, and on the other, using all our endeavours to educate the people in this duty.