

—that do not and cannot really exist within 2,000 miles of us, to weaken and destroy the cause of Presbyterianism in this and other districts of our Provinces. The united efforts of the Presbyterians of Richmond and Woodstock, with the outlying stations, could maintain respectably two, if not three, settled pastors. At present, however, neither party can offer anything like a sufficient remuneration for the services of a talented minister, and indeed they are somewhat like the Galatian Converts to whom St. Paul wrote these words of warning: "But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another." What makes the whole matter more lamentable is the fact that the want of co-operation in these districts is chiefly attributable to the ministers of both Presbyterian bodies. The people, as a general thing, on both sides, see the weakness and folly of separation, and would gladly worship together—and do when occasion offers—but they have given in their allegiance to the Rev. Mr. A., who is determined to run his own little schism-mill, and who always comes to see them when he visits in the district—teas with them, baptises their bairns, and marries their sons and daughters, and gives and receives, with apparent aversion, the latest rumours as to the extravagant sayings and doings of the Rev. Mr. B. It is, however, refreshing to observe symptoms of a change for the better. These enemies of union among Presbyterians are gradually being starved out, and there is a gradual coming together observable in the people of both churches. Already it is conceded that there is no sin in their worshipping together, and that their children can meet at the same Sabbath school, and read and sing and repeat the same psalms and paraphrases, without serious consequences to their spiritual well-being. It has also dawned upon them that if the \$250—half cash—which they give the Rev. Mr. A. to keep himself and a three legged horse from starvation, were added to the three or four hundred dollars given by his friends to the Rev. Mr. B. for the same generous purpose, it would make up a salary of say \$600, and this amount, increased by the enthusiasm infused by a combination of effort, would be an inducement for a man of talent to become the pastor of the district. The people themselves would be the gainers, and the minister of their choice would be able to live as becometh a minister of the gospel, and the cold-blooded experiments that are being made so often of trying to determine, to a cent, the least possible amount that is necessary to preserve the connection between the body and soul of some unfortunate minister or missionary, would be done away with. This is what every intelligent man in Woodstock and Richmond must begin to see and feel. They must know from experience that it is hopeless to think of obtaining the services of a Caird or a McLeod by offering a salary so contemptibly small that a hod carrier would turn up his nose, and snap his finger at, and scorn to accept it. They must know, also, that this is why so few of our young men of talent ever think of studying for the ministry. The small salary offered will do little more than pay the interest of the money that they have expended on the eight years of college education. A dry goods or grocery clerk can earn as much, after two or three years experience, as is offered to the clergyman who has spent from seven to ten years at school and college in qualifying himself for the work of the ministry. "Every man has his price," says the old adage, and ministers are no exceptions; and it is beginning to be clearly understood on all sides that when a people want to get their choice of a first-rate minister, they must be prepared to offer a first-rate man's price for his services.

On Sunday I conducted service twice at Woodstock and once at Richmond, and at both places there was a large attendance of very intelligent people, who received me with many marks of kindness. I was quite surprised with the appearance of things at Richmond. The country is exceedingly fertile, and the farms are laden with all kinds of food for man and beast. The houses and barns, the fields and fences, the horses and waggons, the mens' coats and the women's dresses, all told the same tale of plenty and abundance. One