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MINISTERIAL SUPPORT—DR. GUTHRIE'S VIEWS.

However much it may be overlooked, there is no doubt of the fact that the advancement of the church, and the very character of the religion of the age will be very greatly influenced by the measure of ministerial support generally given. When a low standard of christian liberality generally prevails, it is an evidence that the standard of real piety is low,—that the heart is but feebly influenced by the grace of the Lord Jesus,—that there is not that entire consecration to the service of the Lord on the part of his professed followers which the word of God requires. The reflex influence on the christian ministry too cannot but be most injurious, chilling their hearts and paralyzing the energies of the servants of God, and really rendering it impossible for them to give themselves wholly to their sacred work.

Dr. Guthrie, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Free Church, in his concluding address, adverted at some length to this subject and, treated it in his usual powerful, heart-stirring style. We believe we shall promote the cause of the Redeemer by giving our readers some extracts from this very able and impressive address. After some introductory remarks Dr. Guthrie said:

On two points I intended to address this Assembly. As to the missionary cause, in which I feel the deepest interest. I must leave that, if God spare me, to the sermon with which I shall open the next General Assembly. To the other, therefore, the minister cause, my fathers and brethren, in taking leave of you, give me liberty now fully and frankly to speak. I will speak frankly, and I'll honestly tell you the reason why. I have had it long in my head, and I have had it long in my heart. I am thankful that I am in circumstances now, by the kindness of my congregation and other things, to speak out my mind, and no low-minded man or woman can suspect me of any personal or mercenary motives in this matter. Therefore, I intend to speak out fully and frankly in this matter. Now, I take leave to say that the livings of our ministers are inadequate. I take leave to say more; I take leave to say that the livings of ministers are quite inadequate to their position and to their inevitable and unavoidable outlay. I take leave very distinctly and very expressly to say that; and what is the result of that? what shall be, and will be, the result of it? the greatest calamity that can befall the Church, far worse than persecution, and far worse than oppression. All hail to the storm, that, with God's blessing and good management, drives the ship on, instead of driving her back. The calamity which I dread, next to the withdrawal of the Divine blessing the greatest of all, is that the rising talent and genius, and energy of our country