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## “INDEMNITY,” OR “COMPENSATION?”

In connexion with the inauguration of the new order of political affairs among us, the question of the payment of members of the Federal and Local Legislatures has come up again, and it has been necessary to decide upon what principle, and to what amount, such payment should be made. As to the principle, it seems to be agreed on all hands that it should be that of “indemnity, not compensation;” that is to say, that the country should not attempt to fix the value of the public services of an M.P. or M.P.P., or even to make good to him any loss that he might suffer in his private business by the time and attention devoted to affairs of state,—but simply provide for the repayment of his actual expenditure while attending at the seat of Government. Hence, the “mileage” for travelling expenses, and the *per diem* allowance for personal attendance in “the House.” As to compensation, we suppose that it is expected that patriotism and public spirit will furnish one motive for entering into political life, and that honour and prospective office will contribute a share, to say nothing—where it would be very rude to say anything—of any more solid advantages that may come in the way. The principle of payment, therefore, is—“we do not provide that our legislators gain anything by attendance on their duties; but we will see to it that they are not put to any *expense*.”

It has occurred to us, that something analogous to this seems to take place in reference to the much debated subject of ministers' salaries. The question perpetually asked by churches and missionary committees, is not, “how much are such a pastor's services *worth*?” but, “how much (or how little) can he *live on*, in such a place, and with such a family?” The meeting of his bare outlay in living expenses, seems to be the highest point aimed at. No estimate is entered into as to the value of his services to the individuals receiving them, to their families, to the church, or to the community. Nor is it asked, what such abilities and labours would command in a trade, business, or profession. It is considered quite in place for a minister to receive a dollar, where the deacon has a pound; for dry goods and groceries to make a fortune,