

ought but chat and gossip, and giving him no chance to speak to their families; letting the house of the Lord sink into disorder and decay; looking on religious contributions as a charity or a tax, and taking no pains that their minister be well and regularly paid; contending who shall be the greatest, leaving all soul-work to the professional labourer, and turning their backs on the prayer meeting; such do not deserve to have any minister at all! Sometimes they reduce a good man to their own level. Sometimes the Lord sends them in judgment one as worldly as themselves. Sometimes they lose pastor after pastor, no one being able to live among them. And sometimes they bring down a man of God with sorrow to the grave.

But if the people want the pure Gospel, and show that they love it, they will greatly ease the preacher's task. If they receive him gladly into their homes, not merely as a friend, but in his capacity of pastor, entering into religious conversation, and giving him access to each member of their households, they will go far to make him a good visitor. If they relieve him of secular cares, attending to Church finances, and providing for his support with punctual liberality, they will be repaid sevenfold. If they are peaceful, ready to work, and abounding in prayer, his spirit will be elastic for all parts of his own labour.

Thus, at every stage of the minister's career, from the cradle to the grave, the Churches are moulding him after their own likeness. Born and bred among the people, chosen because he is a man, unprotected by his office from any human temptation, he is influenced by his fellows as any one of them may be. The stream does not rise higher than its source. "Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" The grace of God indeed is almighty, but He works by means. We have no right to count upon miracles, and it were a species of miracle for a living ministry to be born of a dead Church. As unlikely is it that a living Church will produce aught but a living ministry.

DAY OF PUBLIC THANKSGIVING.

We are very happy to find that the authorities of the Province have recommended the observance of Wednesday, the 18th instant, as a day of general thanksgiving for the bountiful harvest just gathered in, as well as for the other national blessings we enjoy. Our American neighbours are wont to choose a later period, the last Thursday in November, but the time now selected by our government, when the remembrance of the harvest is fresh, is far more suitable.

This is an occasion on which it is very seemly for *united services* to be held. It is a good thing to come together in a *great* congregation, to have a copious service of song, to have different pastors take part in prayer, reading of psalms of praise, and brief exhortations. This was done with excellent effect at a recent time of national mourning, and should be repeated in a time of joy. Why should not such arrangements be made everywhere?

"To do good and to communicate, forget not." The thanksgiving is incomplete without a thank-offering. Is there not some local charity in which all could unite?