

ings. His name may be engraved on brass, but the brass itself decays under the corroding tooth of time. The only institution on earth which is sure to endure till the end of the world—ay, and into the endless cycles of eternity, is the church of Christ.—What real work you do for the church is done for eternity. No financial collapse can undo the results of your toil. No inundation can sweep it away. No revolution can superannuate it. No movement of population can make it out of place.

Literary, political, social associations may be all very well in their place; temperance societies, and kindred institutions may be calculated to do much good. Yet the church towers above them all in this, that it is a divine institution. Its claims are paramount. No institution of earthly origin should be placed on the same level with it in the estimation of any one who bears the christian name.

Meet the claims of your own congregation and your own church as a whole; and if you can do more, by all means do it.—But it is sacrilege to neglect the more important for the less important. To withhold what is manifestly due is not better than to take what is not due. The one and the other may justly be described as robbery.

Let your church have the prime benefit of your prayers, your wealth and your talents. If your church is cold and dead so much greater the need for your earnest assistance. Your zeal will stir up others. Remember always that you are working for an institution which in a most peculiar sense belongs to God, and which he peculiarly honors.

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### Duties of Elders.

There are at least five times as many Ruling Elders in our Church as there are Ministers. What are these officers doing? They are under very solemn vows. Many of them, no doubt, are doing their best to fulfil their vows. But it cannot be denied that many more are far below the mark that they should look to. The Church does not

expect enough from her Elders. The ministers have generally a great deal too much to do, and the elders a great deal too little.

What then should we expect from Elders?—They should be men of prayer, well acquainted with God's word, and careful in their conduct. They should be "ensamples to the flock." They are solemnly bound to take heed to the flock over which Christ has made them overseers. They should visit the people under their charge—warn the erring, comfort the mourning, sympathise with the suffering. They are in a measure responsible for the souls of others. They should candidly counsel their minister, and aid him in his pastoral labours. They should be watchful in the exercise of discipline in order to keep the Church free from scandal, and to reclaim such as have fallen into sin. They should know the grounds of distinction between our own and other denominations; and be well versed in Presbyterian Church history. It is very advantageous to know something of Church order and the rules of discipline. They should be thoroughly versed in our statistics, and in all the operations, home and foreign, of the Church. They should be constant readers of our ecclesiastical and denominational organs. They should take special interest in prayer meetings and Sabbath schools. Ministers can do much good in training young men to the work of the Eldership.

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### SUPPLEMENTARY FUND.

The directions of Synod respecting the visitation of congregations by Deputies in the interest of this fund has been pretty generally carried out. The eastern part of P. E. Island Presbytery, two congregations excepted, was visited and addressed by the agent of the church. Rev D. B. Blair, addressed the people in the greater number of our congregations in the island of Cape Breton, and received a most liberal response in most cases to his appeals. A few congregations were necessarily omitted from want of time to accomplish a work for which two deputies should unquestionably have been designated.