

or horse. A few years ago we happened in Louisville, Ky., to hear, in a book store, some old wine-drinking elders discuss the good points of a preacher they had on trial. His person, dress, walk, voice, were closely scrutinized, but we heard not a word in regard to his piety or any legitimate trait of a minister of Jesus Christ. This is the effect of the system.

7. Worse than all, upon this plan no proper pastors can be trained up in the congregation, and the worship is taken out of the hands of the members of the church, and let out frequently to pert boys and gossiping women. It is said the famous young Baptist preacher of London, Spurgeon, was "*pastor at seventeen.*" Truly the Lord said, "I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them." (Isa. iii, 4.)

But the system of the New Testament exhibits incomparable wisdom. The cardinal features are easily stated.

1. The Church of God is the only divine authorized Missionary, Bible, Sunday School and Temperance Society; the only institution in which the Heavenly Father will be honored in the salvation of the world, and though no other agency can man glorify his Maker. It is not only the extreme of folly for Christians to talk of other benevolent institutions, but we see not, and never have seen, how it is possible for any people professing the Christian religion to attempt to do the work of the church through merely human agencies, such as Missionary Societies, etc., whilst we have so full provision for all spiritual labor in the body of Christ. Furthermore, we have not been able to see how it is possible for human institutions to engross our time, energy, and money, without our losing sight of the church and her agencies.

2. Each congregation of the Lord should have a treasury, into which the disciples should cast their contributions upon every first day of the week as the Lord prospers them. Upon this system it would not be difficult for any church to keep an ample supply of means on hand to defray all incidental expenses of the congregation, to send relief to poor saints at a distance, and what is of vital importance, to sustain the minister or ministers of the body in accomplishing the service of God in the church and out of the church.

As some of the brethren have not seemed to understand our teaching, particularly upon the subject of *sustaining evangelists* and *co-operation of the churches*, we think it in place to make a remark or two: