

health almost forbids our hope of his recovery. We sincerely pray that the Great Head of the Church may vouchsafe to him in his long and trying affliction the richest consolations of Divine grace and meeten him for the inheritance of the saints in light.

In conclusion, dear Brethren, we beg to say there are other points of vital importance affecting your religious progress and which we have not named. We, as your ministers, sometimes feel a great degree of diffidence in being compelled to solicit from any of our people those dues and fees which are by right of labour and Divine Precept lawfully our own. If you study the laws and ceremonies affecting the constitution and authority both of the Jewish and Christian Church as taught in the Old and New Testament Scriptures, you will at once see that it was a duty imposed on the people by Divine legislation to bring their accustomed offerings into God's House, and there present them before the Lord in the presence of His ministers who were authorized and commanded to receive the same. Furthermore we observe when they neglected to perform these duties, as directed, they were charged by the Prophet Malachi with the sin of robbing God. They were expressly commanded by him to bring their tithes into the storehouse by which they would prove the Lord of Hosts who would pour upon them his blessings in abundance. This duty is also taught in the New Testament by Christ and his Apostles and forms a very important part in the policy of the Christian Church. The Apostles as recorded in the Acts devised means whereby the ministers might be relieved of the burden of attending to the secular or financial business of the Church by the appointment of persons whose special business was to attend to the temporal matters caused by the various contingencies incidental to the growth and expansion of the Church. Christ himself evidently manifested an interest in the revenue of the church by his action in sitting over against the treasury, and his remarks on those persons who cast in their gifts. And the Apostle St. Paul commands the Christians of his day to lay by them in store on the first day of the week as God had prospered them. He also commends the zeal of some for supplying the wants of those of other churches or communities of the church. He expressly taught that those who preach the Gospel must live by the Gospel; 1. Cor., ix., 14. We are sorry to state that many of the Brethren have suffered a great deal of loss, and endured painful feelings owing to the small sums they have received on their circuits and stations. It is to be hoped, that as a general rule, our people will give these things their prayerful attention and timely consideration, and that the principle now practised in our independent circuits when the