

## Correspondence.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

## How Ministers should be Supported.

In two previous articles I endeavored to give some few reasons why those who engage in the important and heaven-appointed work of the Christian Ministry should receive a remuneration adequate to their support. I shall now notice how, in my opinion, this remuneration should be bestowed. It is not my object, however, to specify any particular mode by which the object should be accomplished, as that must, in a great measure, depend on circumstances, for the mode adopted by a rich and populous community might, or might not, be the best for a poor and scattered people; but only to mention how, in my opinion, the proposed Salary should be paid.

The plan that has heretofore been adopted as a general thing by the Baptist Churches throughout this Province, has been the following:—Some active and interested member of the Church draws up a paper—called the "Subscription paper" which is circulated through the Church and Community, that all who feel disposed may sign what they see proper towards the support of the Minister. Now it frequently happens that the circulator of this Subscription list finds it much more easy to obtain present signatures than subsequent pay. It is with this part of the subject that I have to do at present, and positively contend that these subscriptions should not only be paid, but that they should be paid, fully, that is if nothing in Providence transpires to render the party or parties unable to meet these obligations. Men who are considered (good pay) in other matters are frequently very, very careless with respect to the payment of this first and most important debt, and appear to consider it a matter of very little importance whether it be attended to at all or not; in fact, it almost appears as if some never intend to pay when they sign. I have heard of persons wishing to hold back a portion of their subscription because they had been away from the place part of the time—or had not been at Meeting, most when their own indolence, in all probability, had kept them from the place of worship. Is the Minister responsible for this? How many ministers who get the promise of a small salary never realize more than three-fourths of the amount promised? Now, is not this a very great wrong, indeed? People appear to forget that by neglecting to fully pay their assignment, they are violating an obligation equally as binding as a note of hand, as it (the paper) is usually drawn up in that manner, exercising an evil influence over their own moral character, and wretchedly deceiving the poor Minister—and it may be, his dependant family; then pay your Ministers fully.

2. *punctually.* The Subscription list, referred to above, generally states that the Pastor shall receive his payments quarterly or thirdly, which, I think, is not necessary, if he has the means of living without it; but if not, he must receive it in this manner. Now, want of punctuality in attending to this matter—is a characteristic of our Churches throughout the Country. I will not say the town. There are five persons who pay their Ministers fully—where there is one that pays them punctually, the delinquency in this matter is so great. And what trouble and disappointment it frequently makes. A Minister, for example, engages with a Church on the first of May—his first payment becomes due in August; but if he is a poor man, he must go in debt, to supply his wants until August arrives, and what then? A Deacon hands him ten or twelve pounds, instead of twenty-five, allowing him to get a hundred annually, and says, at the same time, "I will give you the remainder in a few days." The Minister, sad and disappointed, is compelled to go to the Merchant, Shoemaker, and Butcher with the same story, "I will give you the rest in a few days; but alas! the 'few days' are long coming, both to the Minister and Merchant—one quarter runs into another and no pay—and a scene of dissatisfaction, hard thoughts, and, it may be, hard words is the result. Then begin to pay your Minister in time, and don't ruin his reputation and usefulness by a consummate want of punctuality.

3. *Cheerfully.* There are many who, when called on for their portion of the Pastor's salary, appear to pay it as if it were a very great trial and sacrifice on their part—they talk as if the Minister was a burden—

and as if he wanted nothing but money, they don't think so, but they say so, because they dislike to part with that which they hold near to their heart—how often do they find fault with him that he does not preach enough, and visit enough. But remember, reader, what the world would be without the Ministry, and what infinite obligations you are under to the blessed Saviour for this Institution. Never find fault with your Minister when called upon to pay him—for it discovers a great want of Cheerfulness in this very important duty. All the remarks you make go to the Minister's ears in some way—and I assure you they do not render him very happy. If you wish to be happy yourself, and make your Minister happy, pay fully, punctually, and cheerfully.

Those who attend to all the duties of paying their Ministers generally—love him—speak well of him—hold him up—and are benefitted by him, while, on the other hand, those who get their preaching for nothing—who crawl into the house of God on the Sabbath, and pilfer their preaching, generally dislike—speak evil of—pull down—and receive no benefit from the preaching; that is, if they possess the means and opportunity of paying and will not do it.

Yours, very affectionately,  
PROGRESS.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

DEAR BROTHER,—It is gratifying to me to learn that the cholera is subsiding at St. John, and that many valuable lives will be spared. Since I last wrote, I have been absent two Sabbaths on the South-west Branch of the Miramichi River. The first Sabbath I preached at the Crocker Settlement, and thence proceeded some 40 miles up the river on the Post Road to Fredericton. There is a range of Settlements here extending some 20 miles, which form an interesting field of labor for Baptist Missionaries. Elder Tozer formerly resided at this place, but having removed from it, there was no stated preaching until his missionary appointment, when he commenced supplying those settlements a part of the time. As he was appointed, I think, to visit and report on the state of the above places to the Board, I think it prudent to forbear making any further observations at present.

I preached and went from house to house with a good deal of satisfaction, at least to myself. I obtained by subscription for the Chapel at Newcastle, £7 15s., of which I collected £6 15s.; also by collections, £2 15s. for the Mission Fund. The above sums were obtained from the Donald, Wassan, and Dock settlements.

And I am happy to say that I have received per Rev. E. F. Foshay, £4 from the Harvey church for the chapel. We feel grateful to those friends for their donation, and hope the good example will be followed by other churches and friends to the Mission.

Yours faithfully,

B. SCOTT.

Newcastle, Miramichi, Aug. 24th, 1854.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Andover, August 11th, 1854.

DEAR BROTHER,—It has pleased God in his All-wise Providence to direct my footsteps to this place. The Baptist church is small here and the cause of religion rather low; but we hope, and I trust, pray that He with whom is the residue of the Spirit, may pour out his gracious influences upon us, and grant unto his people a powerful revival of His work in their hearts; and cause them to be instrumental in the conversion of their dying fellow-creatures who surround them, and are hastening as fast as the wheels of time can roll into an eternal world. God grant by the power of his Spirit to arrest them and bring them to the knowledge of himself!

I cannot help thinking much of the present melancholy situation of the City of St. John and its vicinity. Truly do I sympathize with you, and pray that Almighty God may say to that dreadful scourge—"thus far shalt thou go and no farther!" and render it a blessing to those who are spared by causing them to learn righteousness.

I endeavour as much as possible to advance the interest of your valuable paper, which is very highly esteemed by the people here.

Yours affectionately,  
GEORGE RAGAN.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Salisbury, August 8th, 1854.

DEAR BROTHER,—I arrived home on the 3rd inst., and have enjoyed very good health from the time I left home until the present. Notwithstanding in every city that I visited for the last five weeks previous to my return home the cholera was raging to an alarming extent. While in those places, I was called upon to visit those who were upon beds of languishing, to stand by the dying, and to see very many carried to the silent tomb. When I was in Montreal, I was informed that from 80 to 100 persons were dying from cholera and other diseases daily.

When I look back and behold the many dangers to which I have been exposed, both by sea and by land, I trust my heart is often filled with thanksgivings, and my lips with praise unto Him who is the giver of every good and perfect gift.

In my tour through the West, I visited Niagara Falls, and a place called the Sand Banks, which lies between Lake Ontario, and the great Western Lake. Those banks of sand are from fifty to sixty feet in height, and are said to be three miles in circumference.

These are the works of nature, and wonderful to behold, all setting forth the wisdom and power of the great I am. From the Niagara Falls, I went to Lewiston, by stage; and from there to Toronto, by steamer; from that City to Lake Simcoe, by Rail Car, and to a Town called Barrie; from thence to Lake Huron. I was much delighted with the small towns which I passed through, and also the Country places, between the City of Toronto and those Lakes. In this section of the Country the grain crops are looking very promising; the farmers raise very fine Horses and cattle there, and the whole region appears to be in a flourishing state. I returned to Toronto, and from thence I crossed to Kingston, by steamer, and from there to Picton, a small town in Prince Edward's district. I was much pleased with that part of the Country. Farming is carried on extensively; they were then engaged in gathering in an abundant crop of Grain and Hay. From there I returned to Kingston, and from Kingston to Montreal, by steamer.

On our way down to Montreal, we stopped at a wharf near Cornwall.—The Captain on board the boat that I was in, seeing a steamboat lying near the same wharf in an unusual position, made inquiry, and was informed that the boat had left Montreal that morning at 7 o'clock—all on board in good health—and now all were dead, with the exception of the captain and two other men, and the captain had just left the boat sick; how many persons were on board in all we could not ascertain. It was then only 1 o'clock, p. m. This was very alarming news to us. I assure you I had very anxious and unpleasant feelings. I knew if spared, we should in a few hours be in the same city which those persons had left that very morning in health, and were now no more; but upon reflection I was enabled to realize that I had the same kind protector at all times and in all places. I immediately retired to my room, and in humble prayer to God, found him a present help in time of trouble, and I was fully resigned to his will, and could truly say in the language of the poet:—

"An hour with God, gives closet prayer  
Ten thousand charms not found elsewhere;  
To all the just, who live by faith,  
This hour is heaven begun on earth."

I returned from my room much composed and resigned to the will of him who hath all power, and in a few minutes was in the City of Montreal. I remained at the St. Lawrence Hall while in the City, and there were a number of cases of the Cholera in the same house while I was there. I went from Montreal to Portland, Me., had a very pleasant time; but on my way from Portland to St. John, had a very unpleasant trip. I was one of the number on board the steamer Admiral, when she ran on the rocks, in a dense fog; but, fortunately, we all reached safely the shore, and, I think, principally all the baggage was saved. What reason we have to praise and adore him who hath power in heaven above, and in the earth beneath for his goodness unto us.—I had a horse and carriage on board the Admiral, the same time, and with the assistance of kind friends, succeeded in getting them on shore with but little injury. I then drove home, by the way of Fredericton, and found my friends all enjoying good health.

I have been very much delighted with my

visit in the West, both through the United States, and the Canadas. In many parts they have an abundant crop of produce of all kinds. In Canada, the farmers grow an immense quantity of hops; but, I am sorry to say that I am informed, they make a very bad use of them. There is a great quantity of grain, and hops also, destroyed in making poisonous drinks, such as Brandy, Gin, and what they call there, Whiskey, and from what I have heard, there is a great quantity of those drinks made use of in that country; but, I am happy to say, that Temperance is much increasing. I attended several Temperance Meetings in that country, one in particular, in the Grove where there were nearly three thousand persons in attendance. There were eloquent speeches delivered, which were listened to with evident interest. In some parts of the United States, the cause of Temperance is progressing far more rapidly than it is with us. It is to be feared, that too many of us have been sleeping, while our neighbors on the other side have been working. O, that we might awake and take hold with fresh energy, and all do what we can to advance this noble cause. I have met with some who feel anxious to receive your valuable paper, and to increase its circulation in that country.

I remain, yours truly,

J. C. JONES.

[FOR THE CHRISTIAN VISITOR.]

Northesk, Miramichi, Aug. 15.

DEAR BROTHER,—

At the request of some of the near relatives of the late deceased Mrs. Eliza Whitney, I send you the following particulars, believing that it may be interesting to some of your readers: Seven months ago, Mr. Edward Whitney, in his domestic affairs, was one of the happiest persons in the parish. Prosperous in business, having an affectionate and discreet wife and three promising children; but the decree went forth that this tree should be stripped of some of its most prominent branches, which much affected the remaining parts. Early in February, Mrs. Whitney was seized with a vital disease. Medical aid was resorted to, but the disease proved obstinate, and still more alarming, until it terminated in death. Mr. Whitney's youngest child and only son was taken sick at the same time that his mother was, and died four weeks before her, aged 16 months.

Mrs. Whitney died on the 24th July, in the 24th year of her age. The Rev. William Henderson, A. M., addressed the relatives and friends who were convened to convey her remains to the house appointed for all living, from John's Gospel, xiv. 1, 2. Mrs. Whitney was much esteemed, by all who knew her, as a kind friend and neighbor. In sickness she trusted not in Physicians, but sought the Lord. In the first part of her sickness she showed much anxiety concerning her future state; but some weeks before she died, she was enabled, with cheerful resignation, to trust in the Lord, and the bitterness of death gave way to a lively hope in the merits of the atoning blood. Less than 24 hours before she died, I called to see her, seeing that she was very low. I did not say much to her; when I was leaving, she held out her hand with energy and firmness that surprised me, and said, "If I should never see you again in this world, I hope to meet you in heaven." I felt that it was good to be in the house of mourning, especially when we see faith triumphing over disease and death.—May the Lord bless the affliction to the bereaved husband and relatives, that they also may "seek the Lord while he may be found, and call upon him while he is near!"

Yours, truly,

D. McPHEIL.

REGULATOR FOR GAS BURNERS.—It has long been an object of no little solicitude to obtain some perfect and simple means of regulating the escape of gas in the burner, so as to have a steady flow under all pressures and thus a flame of constant size and brilliancy. This has been accomplished by Andrew Mayer, of Philadelphia, who has taken measures to secure a patent for the same. The improvement consists in making the regulating valve in the burner in the form of a hollow cone perforated at the apex to allow of the passage of no more gas than is sufficient to supply the burner when the gas is at the highest pressure and has lifted it (the valve) to its seat at the top of the recess which contains it. It has openings round its base or lower edge, which when the gas is at its lowest working pressure, and the cone rests upon the bottom of its recess, allow of sufficient gas to pass to be consumed. A simple valve of this description works more effectually