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Have we too many Ministers?

I have already expressed the conviction, that we have not too many, and I add, that we have only a very small proportion of ministers who are any capable of being useful in the work to which they are called.

The great delinquency of our Church, whence this, and some other grave evils spring, is with the Presbyteries, in not fulfilling their obligations to the unsettled ministers, nor to the unoccupied churches.

A considerable amount of independence and a small initiative of Diocesanism have flowed into the Church, and have partly carried away with their currents, and partly covered with their debris, the whole some provisions of our Presbyterianism.

As at present generally managed, the settlement of ministers is effected, except in its bare forms, almost without the counsel, aid, or oversight of the Presbytery.

The young licentiate or the unsettled minister must seek a place for himself. The vacant church must seek its own pastor.

The ingenious young preacher, inexperienced and timid, clinging to the wings of knowledge of the Church, and disqualified, in a measure, for facing the world, by six or seven years' almost monastic seclusion in colleges and seminaries, is stunned by the difficulties that meet him at the threshold of the ministry.

This is the Congregationalism that I have alluded to. Things being left in this loose disorder, it is not surprising that many ministers are without charge—enough to give the appearance of a surplus, while, in reality, there is a great deficiency.

These unsought and unappreciated diocesan powers are, of course, chiefly operative in the case of preachers just leaving the Seminaries, and do not reach to a second settlement. Hence a large proportion of the ministers without charge are not licentiate, but those who have once been settled, when some time and distance have placed beyond the range of the operation of that system which has, in a measure, superseded the Presbyterian system.

and nearly all from Princeton, were settled in the ministry within a few months, does not meet the exigencies of his argument. I take it for granted, of course, that he does not intend to intimate that the ministers of two to twenty years' experience, who are without charge, are less qualified for the work than those fresh from the Seminaries.

To secure fields of labor, the unsettled ministers must look out for themselves. This brings them under the congregational regime; as the Seminary preachers are under the Episcopal—the Presbytery being relieved of its functions equally by both.

At 2 P. M. we held a most solemn and touching prayer-meeting. The prayers of the soldiers were very devout, and to the purpose. I conversed with many dear young men in their tents and alone, who readily acknowledged their need of salvation.

At night the tents were crowded to excess. And as the evening was pleasant, the ends of the tents were opened and an eager crowd pressed around. A small round table was used; common bread, with many grapes, jelly and water, and two glasses were placed in the centre.

Having exhausted my space, rather than my argument, I must close these articles. I must say in closing, that I desire to do good, and that by them, I want to honor and not reproach Presbyteries; I would see all ministers occupied and not idle, and all churches furnished with ordinances, and not desolate.

Mr. Editor:—I propose to submit, through your columns, a few facts and figures, under the above general heading. These, however, dry to the mass of readers, are, for all, the most reliable source of knowledge. They are simply an exhibit of the moral, social, financial, or religious condition of any body or organization. We cannot arrive at the true condition of any kind, except through its statistics.

This same Home and Foreign Record, by the way, has been the object of an annual attack in our General Assembly, as a dry, uninteresting publication, and the subject of perennial complaint by the people, as the reason of their leaving the Church in numbers. It is the pen of the statistician, rather than the novelist, that is employed on its pages.

I will take, for a specimen, a Synod Report, in the case of the Presbyteries, composed of a thriving population of farmers, merchants, and mechanics. One Presbytery, I find, reporting 3,345 members, contributed to Domestic Missions, \$274; to Foreign Missions, \$688; to the Board of Education, \$801; to the Board of Publication, \$85; to Church Extension, \$120; and to the Fund for Disabled Ministers, \$238—in all \$1,448.

But, says one, you forget that this is only one representation of our beneficence. You overlook entirely our contributions to sustain the Gospel at home, to build and repair our own churches, to keep up our Sabbath Schools, to the Bible cause, and Colonization, and all that; add that in

and the figures will show more to our credit. I will. The result is this—for the Presbytery I have taken as a specimen—\$3.05 from each church member for all religious uses; the Boards, pastors' salaries, and miscellaneous objects—everything! Out of our annual income of \$600, or \$900, or \$1,200, we expended \$3 on the kingdom of God and its progress in the world.

I make no comment. I have given a fair exhibit of the contributions, for religious uses, of a Presbytery which is, probably, a fair sample of the average ability of the Church. If these facts and figures shall provoke inquiry, or stimulate liberality, the object of the writer will be gained.

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words, when applied to our pastor," said Mr. Goodman, entering the door unobserved by the busy talkers; "either Mr. P. is very much out of the way; or Satan is trying to cripple his work; in either case, he needs our prayers. Let us now pray for him." They knelt. The old elder moved forth his fervent cries for God's blessing on his pastor, and on his labors among them, and for charity and cooperation on the part of the flock.

"I was exceedingly impressed with the very great judgment—I will not say propriety, it is not a sufficiently strong term—by which he received the respects of such a variety of classes in the United States. I am persuaded that the very spontaneous and affectionate veneration that was paid, through him, to his honored mother, still continues with the same ardor, in the breasts of some Americans. I am satisfied that nothing has impaired it, and I do not believe that anything will ever occur to impair it. Americans, therefore, claim to take the next place to Englishmen in sympathizing with the present sorrow of that Royal house, and to express their deepest and most affectionate sympathy in the afflictions of the Queen." These sentiments were loudly responded to.

Mr. Adams, the Ambassador, in speaking to "The Memory of Washington," evinced just discrimination both as to an analysis of character and in the choice selection of his words. Indeed nothing could be better or more worthy of the theme. The Ode, written by Mrs. Dr. MacGowan, was received with great enthusiasm, when it was read from the chair. Its two first stanzas ran thus:

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Mr. George Thompson bore emphatic testimony to the feelings of the great middle class, and also the working classes of the English people, in the manufacturing districts. The following are his words:

"With regard to the sympathy of the people of this country with the North, I assert that so far as the industrious classes are concerned, in all the meetings I have held, and in private intercourse with the friends of the cause, I have discovered, when the truth has been fairly placed before them, any difference with the people of the North now engaged in this fierce contest. (Hear, hear.) If any one would have tried the loyalty of the people to their principles in regard to freedom, it is the recent districts that has come upon our manufacturing districts that has shown the people, in fact, the entire stoppage of one of the greatest branches of manufacture in this country. Yet from the various meetings which I have attended in Manchester and its neighborhood, I can assure you, I have never seen the slightest disposition to desert the cause, and direct terms. 'Will you hamper the Government of the United States, and paralyze the people of the North, or at least distract their attention from the question of slavery in the South, by a precipitate recognition of these seceded States, or by attempting to break the blockade of the Southern ports?' The reply has always been the same. (Cheers.) There is no sentiment in the English mind at this time more powerful, and more universal than the sentiment of entire non-interference in the present state of affairs. (Hear, hear.)"

He concluded thus: "I venture to express a hope that as events are now shaping themselves, and compelling statesmen to attend to them rather than control them, not only that your Union may be restored, and certain of your states, and in fact, the whole country, may be more splendid than ever, but that when that happy day arrives, you may not only rejoice in the reestablishment of the Union, at present severed by traitorous hands, and your united Congress, but that in the progress and issue of this great war, you may secure also, impartial and universal liberty (loud cheers.) Of the success of the North, I have no fears; never had any fears. (Hear, hear.) I have had no more than I have lost all faith in human progress, and all belief in an overruling Providence. I fear that the city of Boston alone could buy North Carolina, and all her slaves, and that New York could buy up Virginia, and have thirty millions sterling to spare. I know the slightest intimation of slavery in the South, but I am in the North a display of virtue and a determination that their country shall be regenerated, and I cannot doubt the issue of this contest. (Hear, hear.) You may have to struggle for a while, but the time is coming when, in the language of one of our poets— 'Like some sail that tears its own way, Swells from the wind and mingles with the storm; Though the ocean breaks, the gale will sweep around, And the vessel will be on her way.'"

But the speech of the occasion was that of the Hon. Freeman H. Morse, (Consul at the port of London, and I say this because I brought out with a convincing clearness, for which I could not personally express my thanks to the speaker, the real causes of the secession of the South. The explanation was needed in this country, and is sure to tell on all candid minds. He proved that in the original Constitution there was no provision which established the right of Secession. "No State could dissolve itself." He traced the gradual rise of the Southern slave-power, until it got the control of the Government. His supporters got up the Mexican war, went filibustering to Cuba, reversed in the Dred Scott case—all the decisions of all the law courts, trampled on the Missouri Compromise, and tried to take slavery into Kansas. At last they came up with the proposal that slavery should be put into the Constitution as a principle of Government. They said that unless assented to, they were recognized in all territories South of the Missouri line, now in the Union, and hereafter to be acquired, by an amendment of the Constitution, and that by another amendment the United States should bind themselves for ever to protect slavery, like other property, they would go down to the bottom of the sea. The Committee of Thirty-three, of which Mr. Adams and himself had been members, was, no grievance with the Southern members of that Committee, that the North

had enacted a high tariff; it was slavery, slavery, and nothing but slavery. "What would have been said of us, if we had yielded to their propositions, and allowed that infamous institution, which was neither in the common law, nor in the civil law, to be perpetuated? Then, came the bombardment of Sumpter, and the stealing of the property of the Government for two whole years by Floyd, the Secretary of War, who appointed his own tools over the various arsenals, and in the end, the North was almost disarmed. Mr. Morse concluded as follows:

Many people were impatient with the Government of the United States. But what could they do? They had to create an army and a navy. It took England and France, with all their preparations, months to make soldiers fit to go into the field. It took us not more than a few weeks to the United States to make soldiers of the five hundred thousand or six hundred thousand men who had rushed forward to defend the Union. There were three men, excepting the men at common soldiers who were worth half a million of dollars in their own right. They were how ready, and they had begun to make progress down South. There were three men, excepting the men at common soldiers who were worth half a million of dollars in their own right. They were how ready, and they had begun to make progress down South. There were three men, excepting the men at common soldiers who were worth half a million of dollars in their own right. They were how ready, and they had begun to make progress down South.

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erosity will be extended to the prisoners. A United General Committee has been formed to communicate with all sections of Prangelical Nonconformists in reference to the Bicentenary of 1862. It is intended to have a public course of lectures, and also to erect a Hall, in which the Congressional Library may be kept, and public business be transacted. The Congressional Bicentenary Fund is rapidly increasing—amounting to \$208,000—dependent of a subscription for chapels in Lancashire. The twenty-fifth meeting of the promoters of the Midnight Meeting movement, was lately held in London—was numerously attended by the class sought to rescue, and was addressed by the Rev. Dr. Weir. Six hundred and thirty-eight, in town and country, have been rescued. Louis Napoleon is a Homeopathist, and wishes a Chair established. The Faculty oppose the proposition. Salvetti, one of the Trivium of Rome in 1849, is dead. Mr. C. W. Goodwin, author of "Mosaic Cosmogony," in "Essays and Reviews," is to be the new editor of the Literary Gazette.

The total number of Jews in the world, is reckoned, by the Jewish Intelligencer, as amounting to between ten and twelve millions. Doctor Reid, an eminent London Congregational minister, and a still more eminent philanthropist, in connexion with Orphan and Deaf and Dumb Asylums, has died, in his 75th year. £20,000 (\$10,000) has been voted by the British and Foreign Bible Society, to the American Bible Society. Four fraternal missionaries for India have offered themselves to the Free Church Committee. The Annual Treat has been given to the boys of the eight London Shoeblack Brigades. They numbered 462 boys, and their total earnings in 1861 was £4,965. The Bishop of Ripon has delivered one of a series of lectures to the young of a large London house of business, on the Inspiration of the Bible. The contents, and their unity also—although composed by different writers, at different times and in various countries—together with the fulfillment of Prophecy; the reality of Scripture miracles; the preservation of the Bible through so many ages; the history of the Jews themselves; the adaptation of the Book to all minds; and lastly, the individual experience of believers, were all impressively set forth.

An aged, eighty-two years, lately died at Duff Castle, in Banffshire. A minister at Dundee was lately so much annoyed by coughing in church, that he first made an appeal; then, when the coughing was resumed, sat down; and then resuming and closing his discourse, observed, in his peroration—in enjoining hindrances to the perfecting of the church—"an ill bred congregation." The new Catholic University at Dublin is about to be erected in the Northern suburbs. The Cork Reporter rebukes and remonstrates with Dr. Cullen for his denunciation of the Queen's Colleges; and tells him, that as the Catholic lay pay no need to him; he is seriously injuring the church.

LONGEVITY is more common in country places than in towns; but the latter, through the extreme care taken of late as to sanitary measures, keeps pace with the former. London, and the cities, are one of the healthiest places in the world. We have dismal accounts of the want of drainage, and the otherwise unpleasant and unhealthy condition of the Capital of Prussia. Vienna has been flooded, and the population suffer in consequence. Here, in England, there have been some remarkable instances of old age. For example: on the 20th February were recorded the deaths of four ladies and two gentlemen, whose united ages amounted to 889 years, giving an average of 89 years and 6 months for each; the youngest, a woman, being 82, and the oldest, also of the same sex, having reached the age of 103 years. Again, on the 25th February, was mentioned the death of another lady aged 103 years, leaving three sons aged 75, 77, and 79, 24 grand-children, 51 great grand-children, and 2 great great grand-children. Some years since died an old lady, who said to me, as her 97th birthday approached, giving an average of 89 years and 6 months for each; the youngest, a woman, being 82, and the oldest, also of the same sex, having reached the age of 103 years. Again, on the 25th February, was mentioned the death of another lady aged 103 years, leaving three sons aged 75, 77, and 79, 24 grand-children, 51 great grand-children, and 2 great great grand-children. Some years since died an old lady, who said to me, as her 97th birthday approached, giving an average of 89 years and 6 months for each; the youngest, a woman, being 82, and the oldest, also of the same sex, having reached the age of 103 years. 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