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TERMS. ADVANCE

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TERMS.

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All *advertisements* will be charged \$1 per square  
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*as* *advertisements*. *Advertisers* *will* *not* *be* *allowed* *to* *use* *any* *adjective* *more* *than* *one* *word*.  
Rev. B. PERIN, Raleigh, N. C.

## Communication.

For the Advocate.  
The Financial Prospects and Duties of the Church in view of the Unhappiness of the War.

The streams of public and private charity are flowing in every direction. The winter is coming, and with it hunger, nakedness and disease are marching down upon the poor. Intelligent, thoughtful and liberal-minded persons are assembling in their resort houses, churches and lecture rooms, to devise creditable things for the necessities of the times. Fayetteville is given ten forty two thousand dollars like a flask. Kinston has organized for an active charity campaign, and other towns, villages and country places are moving up rapidly to their duties and responsibilities. Committees composed of bank officers, heavy merchants, industrial farmers, and even powerful speculators are crowding along our railroads, and filling the dim nooks and corners of the West, to buy wood, corn and meat to supply the wants of the needy. And all this is very well. It shows us that there is a great spirit of humanity, patriotism and Christianity abroad in the land. It tells the poor woman whose soldier husband has shouldered his musket and gone off to the wars, that her countrymen know full well where she lives, and will not let poverty humble her and her little ones too roughly. It says to speculating shopkeepers and extorting producers, "have a care; this is a land of liberty and benevolence, and must not be overruled either by tyranny or famine." And it imparts a general assurance to our patriotic population, that the country has not been sold out to the demon of selfishness.

But in the midst of these organizations for the relief of the necessities of the poor, for the attention of the religious persons of the community, and those friendly to Christian enterprise, been sufficiently directed to the financial condition and necessities of the Church? We fear not. The signs of the times indicate very clearly, we think that while there is much pity, humility and social benevolence among the people of God, as much perhaps as ever, and that while they are earnestly upholding the power of the government, and praying the divine blessing upon the souls and the sanctities of our soldiers, they are failing to bring their intelligence, ability, influence and zeal, to bear upon the great financial emergencies of the gospel. What then? *Wherefore?* Why most unquestionably to convert every corps, division, brigade and regiment into a missionary field; to wait not another moment for the quickening of the conscience of legislation; to turn the strong currents of Christian sympathy and benevolence towards the brave hearts of our suffering warriors. We say, here is one of the great financial emergencies of the Church. We may have differences of opinion as to the legality or illegality of certain methods of relief. We may discuss the propriety or impropriety of certain plans of operation. And we may critically expose the justice or injustice of certain appointments. But after all, here is the emergency, great pressing and inevitable, and the cry is for money. Is the emergency being met? Look unto the field how it abounds to the harvest. The reapers are ready with uplifted scythes, and the heavenly garner is waiting. The Macedonian cry wails back from the Iapetian, the Tennessee, and the beleaguered heroes of Charleston. Who hears? Whose pocket is coming open? What preachers are being sent to preach the "unsurpassable riches of Christ" to the men who in patriotism, courage, firmness, unselfishness, moral and physical power, are the bulwarks of the country and the wonder of their age?

And not only so, but in respect to our educational interests, there are questions of grave and weighty character to be pursued and investigated. But yesterday as it were, our fair and noble college at Greensboro', stood the admiration of every beholder. What an honest pride we felt in the position it had achieved, and how our souls thrilled in the midst of its triumphs. We had come to believe that there was not another president in the land of a similar literary institution to be compared with the accomplished gentleman at the head of its interests, and not another board of trustees as fond and as proud of their duties and responsibilities. Building after building went up—stately, tasteful and imposing. The chapel was the finest *auditorium* in the State, and on commencement occasions was filled to the brim with scholars, ministers, beautiful women and skilled and approving critics. North Carolina, Virginia and even commonwealths of the far distant Mississippi, sent their radiant girls to participate in its advantages, and to wear its honors. But where is it now? Gone, gone, gone! People tell me who have been there, that the sad traveller, after wiping his eyes of the coming tears, looks out upon crumpled walls and piles of ashes. But Greensboro' Female College has faded, vanished away. Now here is another pressing financial emergency of the Church. The buildings must go up from their ashes. The trustees have so decided, and we believe that the universal sentiment of Methodism in the State endorses that decision. But then, everybody, who knows anything about the odds and ends of human enthusiasm, and causes to study the rapidly shifting phases of this revolution, how victories are won to day, and disasters are suffered to-morrow; how the currency increases in value at one time, and unexpectedly declines at another; while the ultimate triumph of our cause cannot for

a single moment be doubted, must feel the pressing necessity of securing the means for this enterprise at once. The conviction is vivid and overpowering to every person who has reflected for a single hour in this subject, that the human structure must be *re-made* *revised*. I put the prediction upon paper that the Methodists of North Carolina, within three insignificant months of birth, and eighteen years until the flowers of another summer, our grand children will not see the last stone of the vaulted building erected. Well, is this the general idea of the prevailing grip of starvation, or lives upon the country of the Chinese?—When was my money sent him last, and if sent when did he get it? Has anybody heard from Wood, and if so, when, and what were the tidings from over the sea? Having done this, we can for the support of the gospel at home, we should feel under obligation to provide for its support abroad. And yet, how many of us are apt to conclude that, because Yankee monitors and blackjacks are stationed along our coast and groceries have been run up to starvation prices, and Confederate money has failed to fight a drawn battle with gold and silver, therefore our missionaries and their children are to be left to the pangs of unalleviated hunger.

A subject of immense missionary interest, coming not exactly under the head of Home nor yet of Foreign Missions, is the dispensation of the gospel to our armies. Our soldiers are in the field, fighting, suffering and enduring. From every Brigade almost, certainly from every Division, there is a confession of a deficiency of ministers. Men, who are shaking the continent with their tread, and dazzling the giant powers of Europe by their prowess, ask to be instructed in the plan of salvation. Here also, there is a financial emergency. The pay of a Chaplain, as determined, and ordered by Congressional enactment, is altogether insufficient to support a minister with a family. If then such ministers feel it to be their duty to carry the truth to our camps and battle-fields, they must consent to encumber themselves with debt, or permit our heroic men who the necessities have facilities to support, to divide their own lean pecuniary supplies for the maintenance of the gospel. What then? *Wherefore?* Why most unquestionably to convert every corps, division, brigade and regiment into a missionary field; to wait not another moment for the quickening of the conscience of legislation; to turn the strong currents of Christian sympathy and benevolence towards the brave hearts of our suffering warriors. We say, here is one of the great financial emergencies of the Church. We may have differences of opinion as to the legality or illegality of certain methods of relief. We may discuss the propriety or impropriety of certain plans of operation. And we may critically expose the justice or injustice of certain appointments. But after all, here is the emergency, great pressing and inevitable, and the cry is for money. Is the emergency being met?

The fact is, we know of but one position where a reasonable support is being awarded to the ministry, and that is in the army.—And even there, it is not bestowed through the liberality of the government, but through the generous christian heartedness of the soldiers, who will freely contribute of their purse to have the gospel preached to their sons.

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It may be shocking to the sensibilities of the people of God to a certain truth in this matter; to find that their ministers are out of pocket, and their borders empty; that men who because of their ministry are unable to accomplish their object, could make a living in any other calling; that the Methodists of North Carolina, within three insignificant months of birth, and eighteen years until the flowers of another summer, our grand children will not see the last stone of the vaulted building erected. Well, is this the general idea of the prevailing grip of starvation, or lives upon the country of the Chinese?—When was my money sent him last, and if sent when did he get it? Has anybody heard from Wood, and if so, when, and what were the tidings from over the sea? Having done this, we can for the support of the gospel at home, we should feel under obligation to provide for its support abroad. And yet, how many of us are apt to conclude that, because Yankee monitors and blackjacks are stationed along our coast and groceries have been run up to starvation prices, and Confederate money has failed to fight a drawn battle with gold and silver, therefore our missionaries and their children are to be left to the pangs of unalleviated hunger.

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