

around me. To begin, I have concluded to practice Thanksgiving to-day, instead of goin' to meetin' and tellin' the Lord all about my gratitude. Seems to me he would rather judge people by their works than by their vain words."

"And you'er raly agoin' around among the widders and orphans while I'm to meetin'," said Janet, with a glad quiver in her voice.

"That's my intention. I got old Hannah to cook me a dozen fat turkeys, besides chickens, meat, bread, and pies in great abundance. The biggest basket goes to the minister, and all the poor folks, who don't know what Thanksgiving means, are bound to have one good, square meal. If you have anything to add, I'll be mighty glad to take it along."

There was a troubled look upon Janet's face for a minute or two, and then she then she went to a press and brought out a warm dress and shawl that had belonged to Mary. "Somebody may as well wear them," she said, when she saw the tears in the deacon's eyes.

Surely! she would wish them to bring comfort to some sufferin' mortal instead o' hangin' useless in the closet for moths to devour," he answered. "Oid Granny Doudna is bad off for a warm wrap, and that poor waif at Wilmot's will be proud of a woolen frock like that."

Janet produced one article of clothing after another. Some of it was Mary's and some of it belonged to other members of the family. Then she added jellies, butters and fruits to the deacon's load, until every available place was filled. He first stopped at widow Brown's—one of his own poor tenants. She met him at the door with arown, declaring that she had not a cent of the quarter's rent ready.

"It is not rent that I am after to-day," he assured her. "This is 'Thanksgivin', and here is a basket of good things that the old woman sent you." Then pushing a receipt for the quarter's rent into her rough hand he hurried away, leaving her blessing him for the first Thanksgiving she ever had.

Place after place, he paused long enough to deposit the good things he carried, and never before did he hear so many good things said of Deacon Ainsworth.

"Practicin' is much better nor preachin'," he said, as he sat down to enjoy his own Thanksgiving dinner, though the right way is to unite the two. "It would

have done your soul good, Janet, to have seen how them hungry childer eyed the goodies in the baskets. My! I don't know how I ever managed to swallow the good gifts of God without showin' my gratitude by sharin' with others. I know now what the Bible means by sayin'—'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

—From the *Lutheran Observer*.

PURE RELIGION.

There is too much selfish enjoyment in the Church of Christ. Religion is not to sit in comfortable pews and listen to balmy talk, or to say amen to pathetic prayers. It is to visit the fatherless and widows in their distress, and to keep one's self unspotted from the world. Christianity is designed to be a part of actual life. Like a rill of refreshment it should wind its way through all the lanes where pinching want crouches and shivers. It is a common remark, "One half the world does not know how the other half lives," and it is a burning shame that they do not know. Of all men, Christians ought to know. Our Lord said, Go out into the lanes and hedges. These are found in every town. They come up to our backfence. And it is our bounden duty to inform ourselves of what exists there.

"Ben Adam had a golden coin one day,
Which he put out at interest with a Jew.
Year after year, awaiting him it lay,

Until the double coin two pieces grew,
And these two, four—soon, till people said,
How rich Ben Adam is! And bowed the
servile head.

"Ben Selim had a golden coin that day,
Which to a stranger asking alms he gave,
Who went rejoicing on his unknown way.

But Selim died too poor to own a grave;
But when his soul reached heaven, angels
with pride
Showed him the wealth his coin had multiplied."

This truth applies to those of small means as well as to the rich. The question is to be decided on the principle of ability. The greater the power to serve, the greater is the proportion of service. Pre-eminent opportunity must render pre-eminent service. And yet those of limited opportunity are not exempt. Noble work is often done by those of very limited opportunity.