

## GROWING RICH BY GIVING.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

Whoever would become rich in spiritual treasures must *give away bountifully*. "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth." This is one of the truest of paradoxes in Christian economy. He that saves for self only loses; he that loses for Christ's sake is sure to save. Would you become rich towards God? Then learn to give. God loveth a cheerful giver.

Nor should we limit this only to the donations of the purse. The gift of gold is only a part of Christian benevolence—though by no means an unimportant part. I have often wished that I were the possessor of the wealth of a Lenox, or a Dodge, or a Frederick Marquand, provided that I should be sure of the wealth of heart which those princely men had. But a rich *soul* can be always giving; as the noonday sun overflows his golden urn of ceaseless radiance, and is yet none the poorer in warmth and glory when a whole universe has been flooded with his beams.

We must freely give of everything that we have freely received. If we have the heart to pray with faith, let us give of our prayers. No legacy that a millionaire father could have left me would compare in value with my widowed mother's prayers for me at the mercy-seat. You that have acquired the wisdom which age or experience confers can give those hints and timely counsels which are apples of gold in baskets of silver to the young, the inexperienced and the unfortunate. Give your personal labours, too, for Jesus Christ. Many a rich man seeks to compound with his conscience by bestowing bank-checks in lieu of his own presence in the mission-school, the prayer-meetings or the abodes of suffering. Oh, man of wealth, God gave thee that very leisure thou enjoyest in order to do the work of charity which thy poorer, hard-toiling neighbor has no time to perform. Those that have no money or counsel or charitable deeds to bestow, can afford at least a godly example. And so a Christly life may, from first to last, be a constant expenditure: just as the Temple lamps consumed themselves away in giving light. What were rich-hearted Christians given to the world for but to be reservoirs of blessings?

Happy is the person who can bring the very atmosphere of heaven with him whenever he approaches us!—who acts upon our spirits as the May breezes act upon the early shoots of the tulip and the violets! He is a bountiful giver. He confers on us light; he beams goodness into our souls; he teaches us patience; he showers on us brotherly-kindness; he illustrates for us faith; he exhibits the beauty of meekness; he kindles hope by his very presence, and his unflinching bravery has often been an inspiration of valor to our faint or failing hearts. Next to Christ Himself there is no blessing to the community like a Christ-like Christian.

My good reader, covet earnestly the best gifts, and then enlarge them by expenditure. Ask of God, who giveth liberally, that ye all may be rich—rich in faith, rich in good works, rich in revenues of joy and rich in holiness and the love of Jesus. And then, although your raiment may be coarse, your soul shall be enfolded in the beauty of Christ's righteousness. Though your dwelling-place be humble, yet your heaven-seeking affections may be at home in the celestial courts. Although your purse may be scanty, your heart will be a palace whose chambers are filled with all "pleasant and all precious riches." There will be great treasure laid up for you in heaven when you become partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light.

## AN IMMORTAL BOOK.

Few books live long. Many books are published which create a great sensation. They are read by hundreds of thousands, talked of in every circle where the least degree of literary interest exists, and their contents discussed in every important periodical. But in a few years they are almost forgotten. Three years ago a book appeared which immediately achieved immense popularity. From the interest it awakened one might have supposed it had a fine prospect of immortality. Already it has become a drug in the market and lost its hold on the popular mind. Soon it will be forgotten.

Books which have come down to us from the beginning of our era are interesting as relics of antiquity, but utterly destitute of vitality. We read them to acquire a knowledge of the language in which they were originally written and of the thought of those times, but not to find opinions and doctrines suited to our times. They have been left behind in the march of events and ideas. They are not living books.

The writings of Confucius, which have existed for many centuries, do indeed exert an influence on the Chinese of to-day, but this is because China is a stagnant nation. If China had made progress in arts, sciences, culture, civilization, as Western nations have, the doctrines of Confucius would have lost their hold on the Chinese mind long ago.

But the Bible, which is one of the oldest books in the world, possesses more vitality than any modern book. It is the leading book in the most advanced and cultivated nations of modern times. It is the most potent factor in modern thought and modern civilization. No book in the world has so strong a hold on the minds of men in Europe and America. No book exerts so wide an influence, and effects such remarkable and wholesome changes in the character and conduct of individuals and in the customs of society.—*Christian Advocate*.

## BEGIN NOW.

It was said of Alfred DeVigny that he proposed making a great poem, and he had the capacity and genius to make it; but he spent all his life in gathering materials for the poem. Sometimes his friends used to say to him, "Why don't you begin? You are getting on in life, and after a while you will be too old to write the poem." And he would keep saying, "To-morrow I will begin." One morning the papers in Paris announced his death—his work all undone, he lay dead amid the magnificent materials he had with which to begin the poem.

And some of you, dear readers, have been projecting a grand Christian life; you have a great many bright plans and expectations gathered about you. When are you going to begin that life? You say, "To-morrow." But I fear that death will break in before you have begun, and your breath will be stopped, and your heart will be stunned, and forever the great poem of your Christian life will be unwritten, and the song of grace unsung, and your immortal soul unpardoned. Then the goodness of God will become his wrath, and the sunlight will become a storm, and the welcome will become an anathema; and instead of a life-time of God-given opportunities, there will remain nothing but an eternity of wild overthrow. Oh, that God would by his goodness lead us all to repentance.—*Dr. Talmage*.