

Pray for our missionaries in Trinidad. Pray for our missionaries in India. Pray for our missionaries in the North-West Territories. We can all do that, even if we cannot part with any money on their behalf. If the prayers are from the heart, there need be no fear as to the rest! We dare not mock God by asking Him to hasten the coming of His Kingdom unless we do something towards that blessed consummation. And let it never be forgotten that our own country, our own congregations, are the base from which we must work out to the evangelization of the world.

WHY I GIVE.

1st. I give, because it does me good to do so. I am conscious of the worldliness of my nature. But giving helps to soften and break down that worldliness, and quickens somewhat the latent sympathies and emotions of my being. And this I know is in the direction of a higher tone of this earthly life.

2nd. I give, because giving is the very genius and spirit of the world. The sun gives. The cloud gives. The air gives. The flower gives. The day gives. The night gives. All nature, indeed, is a ministry, ever serving, ever giving, and shall I withhold?

3rd. I give, because I am always receiving. God is giving to me every hour of every day in a thousand different ways and forms, and surely it is a small matter, indeed, that I should give back a little again to Him.

4th. I give, because in so doing I set a useful example to others. I feel that every Christian is bound to be a pattern to others around him. Liberality for Christ is a grace sadly lacking in the religious community. If, by my example, I can help to enlarge it, I am bound to do so. Therefore I give.

5th. I give, because giving brings a blessing. Even in this life it does so. The liberal soul shall be made fat. And in the life to come, who can tell the splendour of its reward?

6th. I give, because it is the injunction of the Bible. God enjoins it. Christ taught it. The apostles commended it. Let two sentences suffice: "It is more blessed to give than to receive;" "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver."

Finally, I shall give systematically, because it is rational to give; because it will help to secure a more intelligent estimate of the claims for which I give; and, because, were systematic giving the practice of the Church, its financial operations would be vastly more easily conducted.

GIVE and it shall be *given* unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom.

THE WIDOWS OF INDIA.

There are in India to-day, 80,000 widows between the ages of six and sixteen! From the custom of early marriages in India arise the worse features of Hindoo widowhood; for many a child becomes a widow before she reaches the age of seven years. It may be that the child has never lived with her husband, and yet custom forbids her ever marrying again. From the hour of her widowhood her life becomes one of misery. She has no sympathy from her friends, not even from her own family. She is bereft of all her ornaments; the hair is cut off. She is clothed in the commonest of apparel, and acts in the capacity of a menial for all the household. Her jewels, which she valued so much in the days of her pride are no longer upon her person. She can never wear them again, never wear a nice dress, or eat other than a given quantity of poor food. She seldom mingles or is allowed to mingle in the company of her more fortunate sisters. Her presence is considered a contamination. We cannot depict her misery. Her condition is almost hopeless. A childless widowhood, herself perhaps a child, drinks to its dregs the bitterest cup of a soulless heathenism, whose only fate is law.

How different the teaching of Christianity: "Ye shall not afflict the widow." "Let thy widows trust in me!"

WHO DOES NOT GIVE?

The man who does not give to Foreign Missions 'because there are heathen at our door,' is the man who never gives to the 'heathen at our doors.' The man who says that 'it takes a dollar to carry a cent to the heathen,' is the man who never gives either the dollar or the cent. The man who is ready to give for the Gospel at home is the man who is ready to give for the Gospel abroad; the man who can feel for the need of his remote fellow-men is the man who can feel for those near at hand.

JAPAN.

Fifteen years ago the gates of Japan were opened by an American fleet. Five years later the American Board sent its first missionary there. Result: Ten years ago less than ten converts in a population of 33,000,000, no church, no native ministry, no missionary that could preach, placards everywhere denouncing Christianity. To day there are more than 2,500 converts a fine body of native preachers, Christian schools, a Christian literature, including 100,000 copies or parts of the New Testament, and 100 missionaries.