

in Mine house, and prove Me now, herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it." 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 liberal soul shall be made fat." "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, but he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." "The liberal soul deviseth liberal things, and by liberal things shall he stand."

Covetousness, which is idolatry, is the sin of the Church and of the world. Our Saviour says, "Take heed and beware of covetousness ; for a man's life consisteth not of the abundance of the things which he possesseth." "They that will be rich drown themselves in destruction and perdition."

Systematic benevolence is the great antidote for covetousness. It makes giving a pleasure, a positive enjoyment. Too many know nothing of the luxury of giving. Systematic benevolence tends to promote prosperity. "He that giveth to the poor shall not lack." The gospel as a system of benevolence, is opposed to selfishness, which has been called the epidemic sin of our nature. System in giving is a great barrier to selfishness. Doing business on selfish principles is very unsatisfactory. "He that loveth the silver shall not be satisfied with silver, nor he that loveth abundance with increase." "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His." And what was the example which He set for His followers ? "He went about doing good." "He pleased not Himself." "Though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich." "Herein perceive we His love, because He laid down His life for us ; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." Very few understand practically the duty of self-denial. It is a rare virtue. If a man love the world the love of God is not in him. "Ye cannot serve God and Mammon." There is no sin in the bare possession of wealth, but the love of money is the root of all evil." One writer upon this subject says, "Gold is the only power which receives universal homage. It is worshipped in all lands without a single temple, and by all classes without a single hypocrite. Happy period, when men instead of making gold their god, shall make God their gold ; when the principles of benevolence shall be looked upon as a science taught from Heaven, the practice of which is necessary to conduct them to heaven. Then the cause of Christ will be viewed as the only safe repository of wealth."

From the teaching of the Bible on this subject, we think it is plainly the duty of every one religiously to devote a proportion of his income to the cause of God and humanity. This should not be left to impulse or chance. It should be settled deliberately and with earnest prayer for divine guidance. The least for which we have any scriptural warrant is one tenth.

It is the duty of members of the Christian church to make suitable provision for the Pastor. See Galatians iv., 6-10. His time and talents are devoted to the service of Christ in His Church, and he should be supported in such a manner as to keep his mind free from anxiety with regard to the necessaries of life ; besides he should have the means of exercising christian charity for which he is sure to have frequent opportunity.

The duty of supplying with the means of grace the destitute settlers in our own country is binding upon all christians. Remember also the dying command of our Saviour to preach the gospel to every creature, and until this command has been fully obeyed there will be no lack of opportunity for the exercise of liberality.