

A PARTING WORD.

The late Dr. A. J. Gordon concluded his last pastoral letter to his church with these words :

"Forget not that your first and principal business as a disciple of Christ is to give the Gospel to those who have it not. He who is not a missionary Christian will be a missing Christian when the great day comes for bestowing the rewards of service. Therefore :

"Ask yourself daily what the Lord would have you do in connection with the work of carrying the news of salvation to the perishing millions. Search carefully whether he would have you go yourself to the heathen if you have the youth and fitness required for the work. Or, if you cannot go in person :

"Inquire diligently what blood mortgage there is upon your property in the interest of foreign missions—how much you owe to the heathen, because of what you owe to Christ for redeeming you with his precious blood. I warn you that it will go hard with you when your Lord comes to reckon with you if he finds your wealth invested in superfluous luxuries or hoarded up in needless accumulations instead of being sacrificially devoted to giving the Gospel to the lost.

"But remember that consecrated giving will be impossible unless there be first a consecrated giver. Therefore I counsel you to seek the special grace and anointing of the Holy Spirit, that he may work in you that consecration of heart and life on which so much depends. Yours in Christ."

MANAGING CHURCH FINANCE.

A writer in the *Presbyterian* proposes what he calls the "Redstone" plan. For enabling those who manage the finances of the Church to do so on business principles :—

On a given day two cards are placed in the hands of each member of the congregation, on which he is requested to write his subscription to each Church Scheme for the ensuing year and return one card in the envelope on the next Sabbath, keeping the other. The treasurer transmits these various sums to the session who in turn sends them to the Presbytery at its spring meeting. The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery takes the sum of the pledges made by the sessions and forwards them to the Assembly; the Assembly in turn makes a report of the pledges of the Presbyteries to the Committees. Pledges from the various societies are sent up through the same channel.

Thus it will be seen that the members and societies stand pledged to the session, the session to the Presbytery, the Presbytery to the Assembly and the Assembly to the Boards.

Nothing could be more simple and easily operated when the system is adopted. One beauty of it is that it is a very quiet way of giving and as secret as possible.

The pastor preaches his sermon upon the subject of giving, distributes his documents to each family and sees that every one receives his card, and payment is made to the collector or treasurer or in any other manner deemed most efficient. The various Committees know how much they have to depend upon during the year and plan accordingly.

MOODY'S REPLY TO A CHALLENGE

A few weeks ago, Mr. Moody, who has during the present winter been carrying on a great work in New York and Boston, was invited by the infidel club in New York, to debate the merits of Christianity with two leading secularists. His reply was as follows :—

"Your letter of December 5th reached me on Monday. I cannot accept your invitation to debate with leading secularists for many reasons, of which I shall only refer here to two. In the first place, my mind is made up on the question proposed—namely, the relative merits of Christianity and infidelity, under whatever other name it appears.

"Somebody once asked Charles Sumner to hear the other side of slavery. 'Hear the other side?' he replied; 'there is no other side.'

"I would as soon discuss the relative merits of Christianity and infidelity. Nobody who studies history need hesitate in answering the question.

"And I know what Jesus Christ has done for me during the last forty years since I have trusted Him. Let the members of your club accept Christ as their personal Saviour, and they need not waste time discussing such a question. If I had a remedy that never failed to cure disease for forty years, I should not stop to compare its merits with another remedy.

"My other reason is that the times call for action, not for discussion. Hundreds and thousands of men and women are dropping into drunkards' and harlots' graves every year right here in New York. Now let us all join hands and try to save them. I will try to reach them with the Gospel. I will tell them of a Saviour who came to seek that which was lost, who died a cruel death on the Cross in order that their sins might be blotted out in His precious blood.

If there is any merit in infidelity, let your members likewise put it into practice. Let them reach out a helping hand to those unfortunates who are sunk in vice and misery. Then, when they are restored to purity of life, we shall have time to turn aside to discussion. Yours very truly, D. L. Moody."