

SOME TITHING EXPERIENCES. II.

A YOUNG business man in Nova Scotia writes:—"Having read your request in the RECORD, I take the liberty of giving you my short experience in regard to tithing.

I am a young man, and in business for myself. It is just exactly a year and a half ago since I decided to give a tenth of my all to the Lord. I thank God that I have been blessed in so doing, and that I have a pleasure now in giving that I never had before.

That which led me to decide in this matter was the reading of a little story in the RECORD of April, 1893, "How We Adopted the Tithe." It seemed to bring my duty in the matter of giving right home to me. I had long thought of it, but felt unwilling to give in. Before reading through that piece my decision was taken, and with tears and on my knees I paid my vows to the Lord. My tenth is on the salary which I draw and the profits of my business.

I can now give to charities outside of my own church and denomination, which I could not very well do before."

From a professional man in Ontario comes the following testimony:—

"God led me to devote a tenth of my income to charitable and religious objects about seven years ago, largely through reading a tract on "Christian Giving," by a "layman" of Chicago, and another entitled "Thanksgiving Ann," immense numbers of which have been distributed free of charge.

The plan has certainly made it much easier to give, yes, greatly intensified the joy of giving, and while in itself the tithe may not in all cases come up to the standard of the New Testament 'giving as the Lord has prospered,' it tends in that direction.

Under it my contributions are about twice as much as before its adoption, while the Master opens up the way to devote at least one-third of my time from professional life to Christian work and activity. I do not, however, attribute this to the fact of giving a tenth, and yet I have no reason to doubt, but rather to believe, that God has greatly blessed me spiritually and otherwise, because he has been 'honoured with my substance.' I do not regard the tithe as equivalent to the New Testament requirement, but until we can act from principle in this matter, it does seem helpful to be guided by a rule.

May I recommend those interested in this subject to read a booklet, 'Our Country,' published by the American Tract Society, and especially the section entitled 'Money and the Kingdom.' It will be found very helpful. In it the remark is made, 'Rules for children, principles for men,' and truly, as yet, the church of God, so far as giving is concerned, is but in its infancy."

A New Religion. Not more than ten years since a new religion took its rise in Japan, and has made such rapid strides among the more ignorant that it now numbers two millions of followers. Its founder was a woman, who pretended to have received a number of revelations. Their god, Tenrio, is a combination of ten divinities, among whom are the sun, moon, and a number of old gods of the Shinto faith. Its adherents worship the sun and moon as the creators. Once these were the only beings in existence. Then they found two unknown beings, a white dragon and a woman, and borrowed from these a model for man's body.

They teach repentance and forgiveness of sin, and claim that their system is like Christianity in its moral demands, while it is superior in that it does not require them to give up other faiths.

A Neglected Class Is in our midst, and yet they do not themselves realize it. A writer in *The Church at Home and Abroad* says: "We have women's societies and boy's and girl's societies, but we have yet to hear of a men's missionary society; that with all our efforts to interest various classes of Christians in the cause of missions, the men have been sadly neglected. It may be said that the men are doing their part through the channels of the church, but if so the amount coming into the treasury of the church shows that our brethren have not a very high standard of duty."

These words will apply to our own church. In many cases the W. F. M. S. in a congregation is giving far more for missions than is given through the other regular channels of church work. In some cases congregations content themselves with giving nothing, on the ground that the W. F. M. S. have given something.

The same writer well says that "this is an unnatural state of affairs. Men ought naturally to be everywhere the leaders in the present universal movement to evangelize the world."

There are two ways by which the evil complained of may be remedied. Either by greater diligence along the ordinary lines of congregational work, or by the formation of men's societies; or, what might seem more man-like, men's clubs. The former is certainly the better way, the whole congregation a missionary society; but if the latter would in any case be more workable, or would yield better results, why not have them? There are political clubs, literary clubs, etc., why not have missionary clubs, with papers, discussions, plans and work? No subject can give a wider field, for it is as wide as the human race; no subject can furnish grander themes; nothing can be higher in aim or more lasting in result than men's mission clubs, having for their aim the uplifting of the whole race, the election and enthronement of right, of Christ, over all the world, the saving of humanity to holiness, happiness, hope, and to joy forevermore.