

hearts. The overrunning of a nation's treasury arose from the home-prepared offerings of a multitude of households, Ex. xxxvi., 1-5. Whatever is good or great originates in home thoughts and purposes. If the wrongs of races are to be redressed ; if the world's evangelization is to be attempted ; or if the coffers of an empire are to be filled, homes must find the means. Such were the divinely-instituted arrangements for all the requirements of the Jewish system. Such also was the injunction of Infinite Wisdom, to meet the exigency of early Christian fellowship. The history of centuries proves, that only the practice of home personal offerings will ever fill the treasury of God, and also that "the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God stronger than men."

A family once shed a brighter lustre on humanity than any royal line of Cæsars, or Tudors, the family at Bethany. It was its privilege to welcome to its board the great Proprietor of all, when a voluntary exile from heaven. Should we not joy to entertain this noble guest ? He tells us that we do, when we heal and relieve his friends. Around the domestic hearth the tenderest chords of nature vibrate, and the kindest projects originate. Loving families start the minute rills, which uniting in the broad channel of charity, leave a thousand blessings along its course.

Our highest and sweetest conception of heaven is that of a vast family, of which God is the Father, Christ the Elder Brother, and the Holy Spirit the all-perpetuating bond of unity and bliss. Oh ! the love that will then beat in every heart towards the universal brotherhood ! But the ability to confer on them any soul-enriching good will not then be ours. If a regretful thought can then be felt, will it not be that we had not more extensively transmuted the perished treasures of time into those of eternity ? While yet then we remain here, let us apply a good portion of gains on the Sabbath to win souls to glory, rather than to store it up for the master to destroy.

Let Christians labour as the Redeemer intended they should, to form such a family, the aggregate of their many

households, I Cor. xvi. 1, 2 ; Gal. vi. 10. Are not families which thus on the Sabbath apply their treasures of earth, most likely to spend together an eternal Sabbath in the felicities of heaven ?

The question is sometimes put in a captious spirit, what can I give ? We are justified in not giving, only when we do not receive. Every receiver should give something. Oh, the infatuation and meanness of those who hope for a blood-bought heaven through Christ, and yet systematically withhold all they can from furthering the grand design of his agonies and death !

The plea of difficulty as to *proportion*, by those who have to solve how a soul, lost by selfish unfaithfulness, can be saved, is simply monstrous. And shall those refuse to sacrifice a part of their possessions for the work of God, whose only hope of salvation is connected with the surrender of life itself, if demanded ? If any forgo their stewardship, and assuming full proprietorship, withhold what Christ demands, they thereby seal their own infamy and doom as unfaithful servants !

Only by some comprehensive action can justice be done to every claim—a method which makes the interests of religion one of the great items of family expenditure, in the ratio of income ; one of the main branches of outlay. Thus it was with Jewish families. Why should it not with Christian families ? The demands of commerce and social life are met amid favouring influences. Only under the hallowed influence of the Christian Sabbath and household, will the calims of the Saviour's glory obtain due consideration. A minister improved the jubilee of a great Missionary Society by reviewing its past history, inviting free-will offerings. The day following a prosperous tradesman said, "I thought yesterday I would give £5, but I will think of it. On the Friday he gave £2.

Where but in Christian families, where parental affection best reflects divine goodness and mercy as encircling the household of its love, and where the parental heart realizes some feeble sympathy with the great Father of all for the bliss of each, are adequate funds likely to be supplied ?

Just appreciation of pastoral services,