

concerns of self, just then, and to that extent, and in that place and age the religion of Christ began to decline, and the church came short of fulfilling her glorious mission, and bearing that fruit which might naturally be expected from the cost and care bestowed upon her by the great Husbandman.

This fact is inscribed on the history of the Christian Church in characters so large and so clear that he who runs may read.

One of the earliest suggestions of *self* has ever been. There is no need of following the precept, doctrine and example of Christ and his inspired apostles so very strictly. This, and this, and this method will be more suited at least in our circumstances. That particular precept, well, it was not meant exactly for us. That doctrine, it might be improved *thus*; and so forth. Such has been the origin of the numerous heresies that have poisoned the church, of the dissensions that have torn her, of the worldly policy which has degraded her, of the fanaticism which has disgraced her, and the lack of progress and liberality which stunted her and rendered her as a whole, so unworthy of the holy Name she bears.

Now if there be any department of christian duty which the church as a whole sacrificed at the shrine of *self*, more than another,—if there be any part of the example and precept of her Lord which she has neglected or set aside more persistently than another, and that at the suggestions of *self*,—if there be any christian attainment in which the church of the subsequent ages and especially of modern times have, as a whole, come short of that of the Apostolic Church more signally than another, it is the grace of **LIBERALITY**. It is in the department of **SELF DENIAL** for the sake of Christ and the Gospel. It is cheerfully giving of her means—out of her abundance for the sustenance and extension of that Gospel to which she owes herself and her all. It is true that in every age, in all countries and in every section of the universal church there have been exceptions—noble exceptions.—It is true that there are many noble exceptions in our own day and in our own church. If it were not so, we should have been left, long since, desolate; we should have been

as Sodom, made like unto Gomorrah.—Still let us bear in mind that they are but the *exceptions*; and that the church as a whole has yet scarcely awakened **not** only to this duty of liberality, but to a sense of the fact that hitherto she has failed so signally in this essential christian attainment.

Is liberality a christian grace? Is it the duty of every christian to give of his worldly means as the Lord has prospered him for the sustenance and the extension of the Gospel? Should this be done systematically—in proportion to means possessed—as a religious duty on the Lord's day—of a ready mind and not by constraint—and by *every one* who is named of the name of Christ.—Has God so commanded? Have we apostolic practice and argument, as well as precept to enforce the duty, and has God warned us of the sad consequences which will follow neglect in this matter? Seek ye in the Book of the Lord and find. Search the Scriptures in reference to this subject, for it is to them and them alone that we appeal in this matter.

ON THE NORTHERN BORDARY OF THE PROMISED LAND.

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This is a point that has not yet been definitely settled. Of late years Palestine has been the subject of careful and extensive investigation. Many travellers of great eminence have been attracted to the country by the undying interest of her ancient renown; and their rambles and explorations have embraced the length and breadth of the land. Yet very few have taken any pains to investigate her northern frontier. Some have taken a walk up the long valley of the Bukaa, that is, the Cœlo-Syria of the ancients, as far as Baalbec, or even Riblah; and then, casting their eyes northward over that illimitable vista that opens before them, they have formed their conjectures, returned, and given their crude conceptions to the world, not adding one single new idea to the common stock of knowledge on the subject.—This has been the case with even our best men, such as Wilson, Stanley, Van de Velde, &c. And while one or two more enterpris-