

These appeals are a source of grave moral danger to those who make them, for they have to administer large funds without the safeguard of the control of others and are thus exposed to a strong temptation to employ for private purposes money intended for public use. They are injurious to the cause of Missions in those countries from whence the funds come, for certainly sooner or later the contributors will find out that their gifts are either not being used for the purposes for which they were made or that the work carried on is very disproportionate to the funds expended. Distrust will thus be excited which will extend even to undertakings where the proper use of the funds is adequately guaranteed.

With some of the evils which these appeals produce in this country we are already too familiar. One of these is their tendency to demoralise the Indian community. The idea is abroad among a certain section of that community that an Indian Christian has only to go with a specious plea to Great Britain, Australasia, or America, to obtain large sums of money from persons who will not inquire too closely as to how their gifts are to be used, and who, if they see their contributions acknowledged in a printed subscription list, will be satisfied that they are being properly spent.

In order to check such evils resulting from appeals by irresponsible individuals we would respectfully suggest that contributions should only be given to those who are able to give guarantees, *first*, that they are the accredited agents of a responsible Committee of persons who reside in the immediate neighbourhood where the proposed work is to be done: *secondly*, that the special object for which money is solicited is distinctly approved of by that Committee: *thirdly*, that accounts will be rendered to all subscribers, giving not simply lists of subscriptions and donations received, but also a balance-sheet duly audited showing that the moneys received have actually been spent upon the objects for which they were given. We are convinced that no cause which is really good will suffer by the exercise of these precautions, as those who plead for such causes will have no difficulty in giving the guarantees required."

One thing for Christian people to bear in mind is that giving to their own church work, at Home or Abroad as they may choose, is the best and surest way of doing such work.—*Ed.*

### I LOVE HIM WHOSE YOU ARE.

"In one of my early journeys in Southern Africa," says Dr. Robert Moffat, the great missionary, "I came, with my companions, to a heathen village on the banks of the Orange River. We had travelled far, and were hungry, thirsty, and fatigued; but the people of the village roughly directed us to halt at a distance from water, though in sight of the river."

"As twilight deepened into night, a woman came from the height beyond which the village lay. She bore on her head a bundle of wood, while in her hands she carried a vessel of milk. She handed the latter to us, lay down the wood, and returned to the village without opening her lips. A second time she approached, with a cooking vessel on her head, a leg of mutton in one hand, a vessel of water in the other. Seating herself on the ground, she proceeded silently to make a fire and cook the meat.

"Again and again we asked her who she was, but she remained silent till we affectionately entreated her to give a reason for such unlooked-for kindness to strangers. Then tears rolled down her cheeks, and she replied: 'I love Him whose you are, and so take pleasure in giving you a cup of cold water in His name. My heart is full, therefore I cannot speak the joy I feel in seeing you in this out-of-the-world place.'

"On learning a little of her history and that she was a solitary light burning in a dark place, I asked how she kept up the light of God in the entire absence of the communion of the saints. She drew forth a copy of the Dutch New Testament which she had received when in a mission school some years before. 'This,' she said 'is fountain from which I drink; this is the oil that makes my lamp burn.' I looked at the precious relic, and my joy can be imagined when we mingled our prayers and sympathies at the throne of the heavenly Father."