

been given by us by getting the books of our secretary and treasurer.'

'I have the figures right here,' interrupted Mrs. Andrews, one of the brightest little women in the church, and one of the most earnest workers. 'I was asked some time since,' she continued, 'to make an estimate with reference to proportionate giving between the women of our larger churches and those of the smaller ones, so I gathered considerable information.' With an apologetic smile on her face she said, in a gentle, deprecatory tone, 'I am sorry to say it, but it really seems that, according to our means, we do not give nearly as generously as those in many of the smaller churches!'

'But,' interrupted Mrs. Amory, turning toward Mrs. Andrews, and with a critical air, 'I should like to know who estimates the wealth and ability to give in these different churches!'

'I think,' replied Mrs. Andrews, still speaking in her quiet, ladylike way, 'that the committee which made the estimate was very just. It is surely natural to think that in the churches where many of the members have expensive homes which are elegantly furnished, where the ladies spend large amounts on dress and jewels, and entertainments, where they go abroad frequently, own summer homes in the mountains or at the seashore, they must have far larger incomes than those who live in rented houses, dress plainly, travel little, keep no carriages, and often have but a single servant.'

'Yes, I suppose that is so,' returned Mrs. Amory with some reluctance, her diamond pin and ear drops flashing in the sunlight as she made the remark.

'Perhaps I would better read the secretary's letter now,' interposed Mrs. Brown, 'for that will answer one of Mrs. Amory's questions about the apportionment, and then we can discuss some plans for getting it.'

Mrs. Brown read the letter. It was wisely written and well worded. The statement was made that the board was only the servant of the society to carry out its plans, that the society had voted to support so many missionaries and schools and to raise the money for them, that many of the women of the society thought that they could more easily raise money for the society if they had a definite amount before them. She added, 'Of course we are not obliged by any committee or society to do this, but we would certainly like to if we can, and I think we shall not find it very difficult. Possibly some of you have thought of a good plan?' she queried.

After a moment Mrs. Andrews asked, 'How did we raise our home mission money, Mrs. Brown?'

'That was not easily done,' was the reply. 'I suppose had it not been for Mrs. Sargent's large gift of \$200 we should have found it a hard matter to raise the \$400. We cannot expect any such single gift, so must do our best to raise the \$600 in smaller amounts I suppose, but it will not be easy work,' she added, with a sigh. 'What do you think we can do, Mrs. Lushington?'

Mrs. Lushington, who had expressed such surprise when that amount was first named had settled back into an easy chair, and had listened attentively to the foregoing conversation, making up her mind, before Mrs. Brown had read the letter, that by some means they must raise the amount apportioned to them. She had just paid a dressmaking bill of \$700 and a milliner's bill of \$95, so she felt rather poor. She really did not see how they were to collect so much. In response to Mrs. Brown's direct question she mildly suggested with an affected, indifferent air, 'I've been wondering, Mrs. Brown, if we could not give some entertainment to help us to raise this amount. Possibly we might have two or three drawing-room musicales, or get some elocutionist to give readings, or something of that sort. Still I know all such things are a good deal of care and it is getting on toward spring, and every one is rather tired of entertainments. Perhaps some one can suggest something better,' she added languidly, as she glanced to the other members of the committee.

'How would it do,' asked Mrs. Amory, in a bright tone of voice, 'to get a good lecturer, like Kennan, for instance, charge a good price for tickets, and have it in the evening when the gentlemen would come?'

'But you know,' said Mrs. Brown, 'we should probably have to pay \$100 for such a lecture,

besides the expense of a hall—as our church is never given for entertainments, and then if the night should be stormy we would not make anything above our expenses.'

'Yes,' that is true,' acquiesced Mrs. Amory, 'and besides no one wants the bother of selling tickets. My children have told me that they just would not go out and try to sell any more tickets for anything. So few want to buy, and so many are disagreeable about it. They said awhile ago quite emphatically that I need not bring any more home unless I wanted to sell them myself.'

The ladies laughed at this last remark, and by their looks indicated quite plainly they had had similar experiences.

Mrs. Avery Allen, who was the fifth member of the committee, had not as yet taken any part in the discussion. She had large wealth inherited from her parents and grandparents. She was most unostentatious and unassuming, having an air so entirely different from that of the new-rich who are so often purse-proud, conscious of their new wealth, and who make all their friends conscious of it. Not so Mrs. Allen. She was one of the noblest of women, interested in all good work, glad to have a share in many helpful organizations for the betterment of thousands and for the spread of the gospel. Her diamonds and jewels were not worn on ordinary occasions, her usual dress was simple although elegant, and in her handsome, hospitable home many a good enterprise had been inaugurated, and many a tired and weary worker had found refreshment and rest.

'We always look for good suggestions from you,' said Mrs. Brown to Mrs. Allen. 'Will you not tell us how "you" think we could best raise this money?'

Mrs. Allen hesitated a moment. Then in her sweet, quiet way, with a smile on her face, she asked, 'Well, wouldn't it really be the easiest way just to "give" it?'

'Certainly,' said Mrs. Brown. 'I think we are all agreed that the money should be raised. But would you favor any suggestions made about entertainments, or can you suggest something to us?'

'No,' replied Mrs. Allen. 'My idea is that we should just "give" this money.'

There was an ominous silence for a moment. It seemed to require time for those who had discussed entertainments to understand that Mrs. Allen really thought that the \$600 could be collected in cash without all the extra efforts suggested. Mrs. Brown was the first to speak.

'Haltingly she said, 'The amount has seemed so large, Mrs. Allen, and we know that in some of the churches it has been a hard matter to collect the apportionment even with entertainments, I suppose we felt we must do something in that way. Do you think we really could get it without?'

'I seen no reason why we could not,' responded Mrs. Allen pleasantly. 'To speak plainly,' she continued, 'I will say that I have never approved of entertainments for raising money for the Lord's work. But there is so much of it now-a-days, it is not strange we have discussed it. It seems to me,' she said slowly, 'much better for us to cultivate the spirit of giving, cheerful giving as we are prospered, and proportionately to our other expenses. I quite approved of a remark of a minister a few Sundays since on this point. He said "many tell us we should give until we feel it, but I think we should feel until we give." I'm sure the women of our church are glad to help in all our mission work, and I think if some of us who have been blessed with larger means do our share, we can get the \$600 easily. We all have to acknowledge that there is a good deal of truth in what our president said about gifts at the annual meeting, that certain amounts of money look large or small to us according to the objects for which we desire them. \$100 for a new rug, or a gown or a picture does not look as large as \$100 for missions; and she urged, you will remember, that, if we could expend these and much larger sums continually for ourselves and our homes we should also give as generously for the Lord's work.'

Mrs. Allen's words, spoken so gently, with no spirit of dictation, appealed to each member of the committee. They all loved her, looked up to her, and respected her ideas. Even Mrs. Amory, who was honest and kindly, and who from sheer indifference because of a multiplicity of social engagements had

made the remarks she did at the opening of the meeting, said: 'You have spoken just the right word, Mrs. Allen, as you always do. Your way is surely the best. I, for one, needed to hear just what you have said.' Then smiling, she added,

'I'm going to Florida next week with two of my children, and will spend quite a sum before we return. I will give \$50 toward this fund before I go.'

'I will give \$100 toward it, Mrs. Brown,' said Mrs. Allen, 'and I think I know two or three others who will give \$25.'

The sexton opened the door at this moment and coming towards the ladies announced, 'Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Amory, your carriages are at the door.'

'It is getting late,' said Mrs. Brown. 'I think we must have another meeting of the committee soon. Could you come to my house next Monday afternoon at two o'clock? We can finish the plan then. If we can carry out Mrs. Allen's suggestion as to giving the money without any entertainments how good it will be,' she added, as they all rose and dispersed. —'Baptist Standard.'

The Christian Use of Money.

Many will read with great interest the convictions expressed by Mr. Cadbury to a representative of the 'Sunday Strand' as to the Christian use of money. They offer no dogmatic rule for others, but they express the practical convictions of one who has shown how money may be used for the glory of God. In this time, when the mere amassing of money is regarded by a vast number as the goal of existence, it is significant to find a wealthy man saying:—

I have seen many families ruined by it spiritually and morally and I believe its acquisition brings blessing to a very small number.

Many of the scandals of modern life are just a practical commentary upon the Apostle's words 'The love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. If however the heart retains its hold upon Christ and the idea of sacred stewardship possesses a man, wealth may be a force of great value. Another sentence of Mr. Cadbury's touches the heart of the matter:—

The mere giving of money is, I believe, of small value in the sight of God, without personal, self-denying service as well.

'They first gave their own selves.'—The 'Christian.'

Our lives are the little garden plots in which it is our privilege to drop seeds. We shall have to eat the fruits of the seeds which we are planting these days.—J. R. Miller, D.D.

Jubilee Coupons Pouring in.

A large number of subscribers are taking advantage of the Special Jubilee year-end trial rate subscription coupon, which appears in each issue. This special trial rate coupon is, of course, only available to those who have never taken either the Daily or Weekly 'Witness,' or lived with those who have taken it. This special rate is simply made to introduce the paper into new homes. With the coupon referred to, any of our readers who fulfill the conditions may have the 'Weekly Witness and Canadian Homestead' for the rest of this year with the trifling sum of fifty cents. The 'Weekly Witness' is a twenty-four page newspaper, containing over four times as much matter as the 'Northern Messenger.' It has departments of special interest and value to every member of the family—including a very interesting Department devoted to agriculture. See the coupon on another page.

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