

not forgetting the one condition our Lord so significantly marks, the giving alms of such things as we have.

To very many this—as a means of grace, of spiritual advance—stands in the first place, and is indispensable; stands in a sense even before prayer; they being ahead in prayer, behind in giving. To all those, then, who have given leanly and grudgingly, we say, Arise and give; give bountifully; give heartily; give willingly; just because something within resists and says, I won't. Give the more and still more, from the very teeth and grip of the old retaining passion. Give with measure and intent to crucify it; that hundred, the nail, that thousand, the spike, that ten thousand, the spear, and so proceed and persist till the base and slimy thing is wholly dead.

And in our dealings with others—the minister in his appeals to his people—must come to them with some authority, with a worthy object, and with a sizable claim. A small matter will not do the business with men; take them as they rise. The hearts of the majority are so snugly shut up; the orifice not infrequently all tight and twisted and guarded; if you would come upon it with any likelihood, it must be not merely a sharp tool, but with some bulk and weight; pry at it with a massive lever; some little local appeal will not have a passage. The field is the world; the instrument also. Then make the big world into a wedge, and drive that in, and so you shall succeed, and they and the world shall be the better for it.

### The Sin of Illiberality.

The sin of illiberality to the cause of Christ is the great sin of the Church in the present day. Professing Christians do not give to this greatest, noblest of all causes, the amount claimed for it by the Master. The fact is, that there is scarcely an interest, domestic, social, or national, to which the individual church member gives as little. With a large number of our people, the cause of the Redeemer is the least cause and the last cause. How few there are who take as much thought for the interests of the kingdom of Christ as they do in respect to what they shall eat, and what they shall drink, and wherewithal they shall be clothed! These merely incidental considerations, which should receive attention only as subordinate interests, are elevated into the place which the affairs of the Redeemer's kingdom should hold in the hearts and thoughts of Christ's people. To this there are many honorable exceptions; but the Church, as a whole, is very far from grasping the great idea of giving to the cause of the Saviour. She does not give as she ought to give. She does not give as God has prospered her members. Of this sin the Church has to repent, or God will chasten her. The Church

that stands in view of the harvest field in these last days, and makes God's judgments for past unfaithfulness an excuse for further sin, is incurring great guilt, and will be made to feel the Divine displeasure. For past delinquencies we cannot atone, but we may repent, and seek forgiveness, and resolving upon increased efforts and renewed sacrifices, enter upon the new year.—*Pres. Record.*

### To Mothers and Fathers.

The first book read and the last book laid aside by every child is the conduct of its mother and father.

1. Give yourselves, then your child, to God. It is but giving him his own. Not to do it, is robbing God.

2. Always prefer virtue to wealth—the honor that comes from God to the honor that comes from men. Do this for yourselves. Do it for your child.

3. Let your whole course be to raise your child to a high standard. Do not sink into childishness yourselves.

4. Give not heedless commands, but when you command, require prompt obedience.

5. Never indulge a child in cruelty, even to an insect.

6. Cultivate a sympathy with your child in all lawful joys and sorrows.

7. Be sure that you never correct a child until you know it deserves correction. Hear its story first and fully.

8. Never allow your child to whine or fret, or to bear grudges.

9. Early inculcate frankness, candor, generosity, magnanimity, patriotism and self-denial.

10. The knowledge and fear of the Lord are the beginning of wisdom.

11. Never mortify the feelings of your child by upbraiding it with duress, but do not inspire it with self-conceit.

12. Pray with and for your child often and heartily.

13. Encourage all attempts at self-improvement.

14. Never deceive or break a promise to a child.

15. Reprove not a child severely in the presence of strangers.

16. Remember that life is a vapor, and that you and your child may be called out of time into eternity any day.

### A Sure Paymaster.

That terrible saying of Ann of Austria to Richelieu, holds true for mercy as well as for judgment: "My Lord Cardinal, God does not pay at the end of every week, but at the last *He pays.*" God may put his faithful ones upon a long and faithful apprenticeship, during which they learn much and