

SYSTEMATIC GIVING.

At a recent meeting of the O.C.W.B.M. of Owen Sound there was some talk about giving regularly of one's means to the Lord. Those present seemed unanimous in the opinion that the duty was not fully understood by the majority of our people and it was proposed something should be done (or written) for the purpose of having the subject thoroughly examined and fully discussed that the teaching of the Scriptures on this most important matter might be known.

What are the instructions given? We will examine a few passages of Scriptures.

"Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him that there be no gathering when I come," 1st Cor. xvi-2. "Therefore I thought it necessary to exhort the brethren that they would go before unto you and make up before hand your bounty, whereof ye had notice before, that the same might be ready as a matter of bounty, and not as of covetousness. But this I say he which soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly and he which soweth bountifully shall reap bountifully," 2 Cor. 9, 5-6.

The remark of a brother "If every member of the Christian Church would give this year one cent a week to the mission fund the amount would be double last year's contributions" has led to asking the question, are we doing our duty? How small, how pitiful such giving seems in comparison with what we receive. How does God deal with us, is it with a grudging reluctant doling out of his mercies? By no means. The earth teems with abundance; every succeeding year supplies the wants of our race bountifully; no stint, no parsimony. Are we expected to show our thankfulness for these mercies will we not have to give an account of our stewardship? Read what the Lord says by Malachi with reference to offering to God what is of no value to ourselves, Malachi i, 8 and iii, 8-9; then in the tenth verse the Lord entreats these people who had so far forgotten to return to their duty. "Bring in your offerings that there be plenty in my house and prove me, saith the Lord of Hosts if I will not open the windows of Heaven and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground."

From these scriptures and many others which will no doubt occur to the reader it seems evident that the Lord loves liberality in his people. According to what a man hath, the poor widow was considered for her small offering not because it was small but it was given in a proper spirit of gratitude to the Giver of all good. In giving we must remember that God is not mocked. He knows the thoughts and intentions of the heart, and this as an act of worship must be done conscientiously if we expect the blessing.

It is requested that articles throwing light upon this duty be written and sent to the EVANGELIST for publication. C.W.

Selections.

THE BESETTING SIN.

The person who complacently admits that any favorite sin is his "besetting sin" may be sure that no sin so thoroughly besets him as a certain willingness to be beset by any sin. And yet most persons seem to feel relieved of a certain burden of responsibility when they have catalogued an evil desire, or habit, in themselves, as their besetting sin. Because they speak of it as their besetting sin, they seem to regard it as a possession necessary to the completeness of their character as a sinner. If the discovery and stigmatising of one's besetting sin means a fixed determination to exterminate it, that would be one thing. But if it means as too often it does, that it is to be accepted and borne with as one of the natural constituents of every human personality; that the possessor of it has labeled it and put it by to keep as a part of his moral cabinet; that every other weakness and fault and sin is to be eradicated while this is to be let alone so as to fulfil the supposed necessity of a sinner having a besetting sin,—that is quite another thing. Let us realize that there is no more virtue in besetting sins than in other sins.—*Sunday School Times.*

The wealthy Catholics of New York have just built for Archbishop McClesky a white marble mansion, which has cost 70,000 dollars. The "successors of the apostles" fares rather more sumptuously than Peter, James and John.

Children's Work.

Mrs. JAMES LEDIARD, Poplar Hill, SUPT.,
To whom all communications for this department should be addressed.

Dear Children,—It scarcely seems possible that a month has passed since I wrote to you, does it? I hope that during the month you have all been having a happy, pleasant time. I used to write in my Copy Book, years ago. "Be good and you will be happy" Do you think that is true? I am sure you do! When you carry home a good report from school, or stand head in your class, or your teacher praises you for being punctual and persevering, does it not fill your heart with a satisfied happy feeling which no amount of selfish enjoyment ever could? Or when you feel that you have been helpful at home, that the dishes were all washed and put away in the way mother wishes it to be done, that the chairs in the parlor were all carefully dusted, how light hearted you feel! Do you not? This is true of all children; but I should like to know that all the dear children who belong to our Mission Band, were always happy because they are good. Do you ask me why? I will tell you. Jesus, our dear Saviour who loved us all so much, that He left His Beautiful Home and His Father, that He might come into this World of ours and learn by actual experience what we have all to endure, began His earthly career, by—what do you think? Having His own way? Getting vexed and pouty because He could not always do as He wished? Oh! dear no. He was obedient to His parents. If you wish to follow His footsteps in the journey of life, during your childhood, you must be obedient to your parents. Suppose you search your Bibles and try if you can find anywhere another direct command given to children especially except that given in the Sixth Chapter of Ephesians first verse. "Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right" You will be wondering what this has to do with Mission Work. My dear children, it has much to do with it. Suppose, when the time appointed for the meeting has come, you leave home with some of your home work, neglected, something left undone which you were told to do, and which the tired mother or sister or perhaps the hired girl must do in your absence; do you think the Saviour, who sees us at all times, and knows all we do, will be pleased? I am sure you do not. Make your home life right, start out by obeying. His first command and copying the example of His early life, and then your work for him will be a blessing to yourself and to those you are trying to help. If all the members of our children bands would make this the rule of their lives, what a power for good they would become! How the Glorious Gospel would spread! How God power and blessing would descend and rest upon the work! How fast the poor heathen would know and love the Saviour! Dear Children, it is.—*J. E. L.*

If the dear sisters in Ontario who are interested in the Children's work, would write short papers for the column, they would give others the benefit of their thoughts and many useful suggestions might be utilized which are lying dormant. Let us hear from you.

Dear Mrs. Lediard—In answer to your request, I will write to you of our Mission Band "Cheerful Givers," which was organized in June 1889, by Minnie C. Fleming. We have now thirteen members. Vickie Fleming is our President, Mrs. Agnew, our Vice-President, and I am the Secretary. The minutes of our last meeting are as follows: Meeting opened with singing "Jewels" Scripture reading and prayer, followed by roll call, (which was answered by Scripture texts,) and reading of the minutes; after which a paper was read by the Secretary showing forth the work done by the missionaries in India. Recitations were given by Maggie Kinchen and Ruth Fleming. Song by the band "Can a little child like me." Talks to the children by the President and Vice-President. Monthly dues collected \$1.05; closing hymn "We'll crown them with roses;" prayer by the band. I hope you will think this report worthy of a place in the EVANGELIST. ROY FLEMING, Sec. Kilsyth, Oct. 1st, 1889.

When the richest American of his day was in his own fatal sickness a Christian friend proposed to sing for him; and the hymn he named was, "Come ye sinners, poor and needy." "Yes, yes," replied the dying millionaire, "sing that for me; I feel poor and needy." Yet at that moment the stock-markets of the globe were watching and waiting for the demise of the man who could shake them with a nod of his head. "Poor and needy!" How he sand sweeps from under a man's soul in such an hour as that!—*Dr. T. L. Cuyler.*

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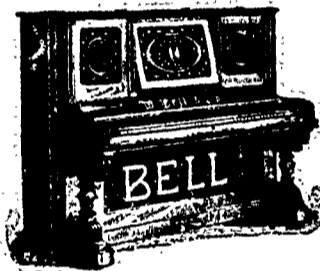
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