

and adored. The same lesson was taught to Nebuchadnazzar, as we read in the fourth chapter of Daniel. The events recorded there must have left an indelible impression upon the mind of the great conqueror. His dream, its interpretation, and the exhortation given by its interpreter, with the subsequent fulfilment of the interpretation, must have burned into his very soul the truth which God set before him by the mouth of the prophet, that he should "know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and *giveth* it to whomsoever He will." God has ever been jealous of His character as the giver, and has taken measures to be remembered as such, or to punish those who would not keep the fact in mind that "He giveth to all men life and breath and all things." And when in the fulness of time Jesus Christ came into the world and gave Himself for us. He only gave larger demonstration of what had been a cardinal truth from the beginning, that God giveth liberally. In the Great God Himself, then, the Christian giver has his model; and he is an imitator, endeavoring in the direction of the "external ideal," the example of God and Christ. The standard pattern and model of his giving, as of all his life and conduct, is his Heavenly Father. The precept of Jesus, "Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect," includes the believer's liberality within its scope. And he who seeks to rule his life by the word of Jesus, and to be, through grace, as like his God as he can be, in his giving, as well as in every other virtue, is a *godly* man in the true sense of the term.

But how many Christians are lob-sided and comparatively inefficient, simply because they forget that God is their Model as well as as their Benefactor! They like to rest their hearts and their hopes upon the comfortable assurance, that "all the fulness of the Godhead" has been pledged to the saints in the gift of Jesus to them. Full of this thought they stand before the throne of grace, like the children of the horseleech ever crying, "Give! Give!" This may be as it should be, so far as it goes, for God commands us to "ask, and it shall be given" us. But it is our duty, not only to ask that we may receive, but to go on to perfection, and imitate the Divine Beneficence by giving after the Divine model. "Give, and it shall be given unto you," says our Lord. "Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again." God never meant His people to be insatiable vortices, ever sucking