

to receive aid from without. Endowments from Missionary funds sometimes work all the mischief occasioned by those from the State or the misguided liberality of testators. While I speak thus, brethren, I know that there are few, if any, of you, that do not heartily respond to these sentiments. Let a Missionary Committee be never so kind and fraternal, "it is more blessed to give than to receive." I speak from experience.

MISSIONARY CONTRIBUTIONS.

What can be done to increase our Canadian Missionary revenue? We have to some extent improved upon our former selves in this respect, but we have no right to be satisfied and self-complacent. Nor is this a question to be discussed only in prosperous times. "In the day of adversity consider." Perhaps God has made many lose what they thought they could not afford to give, in order to rebuke our covetousness and personal extravagance. We have a pretty complete and vigorously worked machinery for the collection of Missionary funds, so far as the Society is concerned; in some local churches, we have this supplemented by as effective an agency, but others are sadly wanting in this respect. We had better be without money, however, than resort to the disgraceful arts by which the cause of Christ—so called—is sometimes supplied with a revenue—the shameless importunity that bores the unwilling to pay a tax to be let alone, the appeals to the love of human praise, and a whole tribe of devices to get money through some other means than the love of the missionary work for Christ's sake. I cannot believe that such donations are acceptable to the Lord, or will really do His work, though they may extend a denomination. But there is a more excellent way. Do we pastors preach enough on the Divine Law of Beneficence? Do the people generally understand and feel their duty in this respect? I trow not. It ought not to be a very extraordinary thing for us to receive subscriptions of \$100 or £100. How many such a sum is spent by the donors of \$5 or \$10 to less purpose! A missionary, who receives \$500 a year for preaching, when he might make \$1,000 in business, gives \$500 a year to the missionary cause; but Christ has as great a claim on every layman as He has on him. We want to bring every one directly up to Christ and Him crucified, in this matter of giving. We are influenced a great deal too much by custom, example, and our own credit. We must learn to "do it heartily, as unto the Lord, not unto men." When this spirit pervades the churches, our treasury will be better filled than it could be by baser means, and on every piece of silver will be stamped "Holiness to the Lord." Such money will bring a blessing with it. On behalf of subscribers, British and Canadian, to the Missionary Society, let me add, that a grave responsibility rests on the committees, the missionary pastors, and churches, to see that their gifts are really employed for the Lord's service. We all know that there are things done in the name of the Lord which He would utterly disown. A young disciple may think that money collected for Christ, and dispensed by reverend and semi-reverend hands, cannot go astray; but we, that have been behind the scenes, and learnt something of the internal history of churches and societies,—*we know better*. It is a fearful shock to one's whole nature, when this fact is first discovered. It is one way in which "the little ones that believe in Christ" are "offended," and we know what the Master says of that. Nothing tends more surely to destroy Christian confidence and fellowship, and to wither up liberality to the very roots. Brethren, let us all see to it that our missionary transactions will bear looking into, by God and man. Let churches never apply for aid till they have given their uttermost farthing; let missionaries not be detected as cumberers of the ground; and let Missionary Committees discharge their most weighty and anxious trust, as stewards of their Lord's money. Will this grant do Christ's work? is the question to be asked in reference to every application, and it is often a very difficult question to answer. Where a grant is required to help local stinginess, or an inefficient ministry, conscience protests. It is in very few places that our missionaries have the privilege of preaching where Christ is not named. Too often they appear, at least, to be competitors with a crowd of other preachers for those families of the locality that go to church—a most trying position for their simplicity and godly sincerity. Some, even of our own selves, would say—Retire