

we were before. "Give, and it shall be given you, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over." To many of us it may be said, "All ye have given of your abundance: but these of their penury." St. Augustine says, "God Almighty will not ask thee, O man how much hast thou given, but how much hast thou remaining after that which the Lord didst give?"

Children and youth should be encouraged to give; the former do not need much prompting, their hearts are easy to move. I have in my own family of little children, adopted the plan of giving each a small sum per week, out of which they are encouraged to appropriate half to benevolence, but one of my little girls was, I found, giving the whole of her little fund to this purpose, so I said to her, "My dear, you are so generous that I must increase your amount." There is a Heavenly Father, who tells us in His Word, that His conduct to His children is often characterized by the same principles as influence us towards our children.

One more reference to my garden, if I do not weary you. In the spring of the year, at the time of blooming, I found myself looking with pleasure at some small fruit-trees which had only been planted the year before, and which were already giving promise of fruit. There were other trees there, much finer and fuller of bloom, but did not give me nearly the pleasure which these did: I expected fruit from the older trees, but I was delighted to find it on the young. So, methought, the Heavenly Master looks with especial pleasure on the young trees of his planting, as they give early promise of fruit."

AN AGED MISSIONARY'S TESTIMONY.

One of the most venerable Missionaries in the foreign field, Father Gulick, writing recently from Honolulu, to his native district, in New Jersey, bears a remarkable testimony to the work. He is seventy-five years of age. He says:—

I am deeply conscious that I have done nothing to boast of, far from it; but after an experience of forty-four years, I can testify, that although attended with some trials, it is a blessed work, and that those who from love to Christ, engage in it, have joys that those who shrink from the trials never know. And even the trials which, in former years were severest, are now by the frequent communications with all parts of the world, greatly diminished. But at all events the greater the sacrifice and trials, the greater the reward, both here and

hereafter. "There is no man that hath left house or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for My sake, and the Gospels, but he shall receive an hundred fold," &c. I have been an invalid most of my days, but I fully believe that I have lived longer, done more, and enjoyed far more than I should have done had I remained in my native land. The Lord has given us seven sons, and one daughter. They are all Church members, and we trust living branches of the true Vine. The daughter and one son are with us in our declining years. Four sons are missionaries of the A. B. C. F. M. in China, Japan, and Spain; five are in the ministry, and one is not, for God took him.

If any desire to turn their talents to the highest account, I say let such become missionaries. For I believe the sainted Dr. Archibald Alexander was right when he said, ordinarily, a young man, by devoting his life to foreign missions, did as much for his native place by his reflex influences, as he could have done by a whole life spent there. Hence all he may do among the heathen is clear gain to the cause of Christ. Had I, therefore, as many sons as Gideon—seventy, I should wish them all to be missionaries.

I am daily admonished by increasing weakness, that my days are numbered. But this does not alarm me, for at times "The shining shore I can almost discover"; and occasional glimpses of the holy city, and of the employment of its inhabitants, make me, like Bunyan's Pilgrim, to "wish I was there."

SYRIA.

The strongest and most efficient Missions in Syria are now conducted and supported by Presbyterians. The following facts about Syria will be read with interest.

ITS SECTS AND POPULATION.

Mohammedans—Nearly 2,000,000.

Druzes—Seceders from Islam, and holding a medley of Mohammedanism and ancient philosophic sects. 100,000.

Nusairiyyeh—Perhaps descendants from the ancient Canaanites, and still virtually heathen. 200,000.

Bedouin Arabs—A few thousands.

Maronites—Modified Papists, very bigoted and intolerant; about 200,000.

Papal Greek—The proudest and most intelligent people of Syria; of pure Arab stock, and numbering about 500,000.

Orthodox Greek—150,000.

Armenians—20,000.

Jacobites—15,000.

Jews—25,000.