

of giving, linked to the fact that the giving was in the same proportion, even among nations directly opposed to each other as matters of polity and general customs, and too, among nations having no inter-communication whatever, would seem to show that the idea sprang from a common source. And turning to Scripture we find this supposition verified in every instance. While in the early pages of Scripture we do not find the express command recorded, we do find that on every occasion when gifts were offered, they were well pleasing to God.

The history of Abraham's relation to God offering to Him the best of his substance; the record of Jacob when he said, "The Lord shall be my God, and this stone which I have set up for a pillar shall be God's house and of all that Thou shalt give me I will give the tenth part unto Thee," teach us that this obligation was of divine origin and from the very first.

Under the Law the command is expressly given:—All the tithe of the Land whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree is the Lord's. It is Holy unto the Lord. Of course we question if the same obligation exists still. And we may answer at once that neither in the New Testament, where in all probability every departure from Jewish practice has been noticed, nor in any part of the writings of the Old Testament has it ever been hinted that in Christian times men were to cease to honor God with their substance as His servants of previous times had done. On the contrary the New Testament abounds with commands urging men toward liberality. And if these were reasons in Old Testament times why men should give of their substance to God are not the reasons much more abundant now when through Christ Jesus the blessings have been infinitely increased.

"Honor the Lord with thy substance." "Charge them that are rich in this world that they do good that they may be rich." "Every man, as he purposeth in his heart." "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store as God hath prospered him." "Freely ye have received freely give."—*A Queen's Graduate.*

Home Missions.

Following up the article on the work of the Home Mission Committee published last week, we here give a resolution passed by the Committee which show the condition of the Fund and the course to be pursued. It will be remembered that in the report of the Committee proceeding it was stated that the entire contributions received up to 25th of March, were \$18,500 less than the amount of the claims due at that date, and that but for the moneys sent by the British churches, the deficit would have been \$26,000. The Committee estimates that there may yet be received from congregational contributions, not yet forwarded, the sum of \$8,000 which would leave the additional sum of \$10,000 to be provided, if the Missionaries are to be paid in full, as they ought to be. Following is the resolution: "That in view, according to an estimate made, of a probable deficit of \$10,000 at the close of the year next month, the Committee agree to pay meantime, to the several Presbyteries, 75 per cent of the claims passed for this half year now ending, and on the first of May to distribute *pro rata* the amount which may then be in hand, in the earnest hope that special

efforts may be made by Ministers, Sessions and congregations throughout the Church, so that sufficient funds may be forthcoming by the 1st of May to enable the Committee to pay the grants in full." . . . The Committee being exceedingly solicitous that the amounts to be deducted from the grants of Missionaries should be as small as possible, requested the Convener to prepare a special circular to all congregations and mission stations, setting forth the urgent need of the fund at the present crisis, and that Dr. Robertson be instructed to spend the time between now and the end of April in visiting congregations in Ontario and Quebec, laying before them the state of the fund, and securing Sabbath collections, and subscription by personal canvas, so as to enable the Committee as far as possible, to make good their promises to the various Missionaries. In addition to this the members of the Committee pledge themselves to obtain additional contributions to the best of their ability from the congregations within their respective Presbyteries.

The Convener states that an examination of the books showed that on the 25th March, 250 congregations and mission stations (the latter *aided* by the fund), had sent nothing whatever, while in the case of many the contributions sent were less than last year. He urges that ministers and missionaries bring the state of the fund before their congregations at the earliest opportunity, in order that those who have neglected sending in their contributions may do so at once, and that a special appeal be made to congregations that are able to increase their contributions beyond what they have already sent; and he intimates that ministers and congregations desiring to secure the assistance of Dr. Robertson in addressing their congregations or collecting moneys to meet the deficit, should correspond with him forthwith, and that the representatives of the several Presbyteries on the Home Mission Committee, cordially co-operate with him in his efforts, and *personally* visit congregations, that he may be unable to reach. The urgency of this call must be evident to the Church and no delay ought to take place in making an encouraging response.

The College Closings.

The closing exercises at a Theological College are always fraught with a peculiar interest. The college course has many charms not the least being the friendships and companionships formed between kindred souls with common objects in life; the opportunities for indulging these cease as the corridors are exchanged for the paths of life in the wider field of action. Commencement day to the theological graduate means more than a parting of friends, and the real interest of the proceedings centres in him. There they are, a band of young men, receiving diplomas from elder brethren, on the threshold of special work for the Master. The newly capped D.D. has won his reward, how many of these young men, some of them nervous and abashed, will live to receive like honor? It is in the light of the sacredness of the occasion that such earnest and loving pleading, and wise counsel, as given by Rev. Principals Caven and MacVicar to their respective classes last week can be properly understood. As these young men go forth to battle with sin, to become leaders in advance of veteran believers and workers