

the South Seas and other places are "white unto the harvest;" a large number of talented young ministers are anxious to go, to leave home and kindred, country and civilization, to proclaim the "glad tidings of great joy" to the poor and the perishing; and Christ says—"Go preach the Gospel to every creature;" yet our Foreign Mission Board cannot carry out the injunction of the Master nor respond to the entreaties of those living in darkness and going down to yet deeper, denser darkness. Why? Because there is no money in the Church? Because our people cannot afford to supply the necessary funds? Because the members of the Church are doing all that is required of them? No; nothing of the kind. The cause must be attributed to the selfishness and dishonesty of the professed followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Was not Ananias dishonest? Is it not dishonest for men and women to make promises which they do not even try to fulfil? Is not a ten or a twenty-cent Christian, who is worth thousands of dollars, at the Lord's Table, dishonest?

Not long ago an earnest appeal was made in one of our congregations by an eloquent preacher on behalf of the Theological Hall. It was understood that the names of subscribers would be published in the "Presbyterian Witness" and that the world would see how large hearted and generous some persons are. Handsome figures were set opposite some of the names. Next Sabbath after the annual collection was taken in the Church for the Foreign Mission scheme. It was known, of course, that no man would be able to publish how much each contributor gave—and it was forgotten that the Lord "sat over against the treasury;" and as a consequence there were not "many that were rich cast in much." It is a notorious fact however that some of those who a few days previous had put down their names on the subscription paper for \$600.00 or \$800.00 were anxious to get small change for dollar notes that

they might give a few cents for the benefit of the heathen. It would not be proper to say that those people were dishonest: it may not be wrong however to draw an inference. How many there are who would be ashamed to have their name and their contributions for missionary purposes published to the world!

This dishonesty displays itself very forcibly sometimes in church building. A congregation of eighty families needs a new church. The minister and a few of the elders bring the matter before the annual meeting and urge its importance. They wish to take immediate steps towards erecting a suitable building for the Lord. All the persons present admit the necessity there is for a new church but they plead poverty and the hard times and they ask for delay. During the next year ten or twelve of those same people build elegant and costly houses for themselves and furnish them. Eighty families cannot build a house for the Lord, but a number of those same families can build houses for themselves!

In that excellent book, "Gold and the Gospel," (page 308) we find the following weighty words: "It cannot be denied, that the love and retention of property are conspicuous among Christians generally. So evident is it, that they have yet to learn the nature and extent of their sacred trust. To a large degree they manifest a spirit of grasping and self-idolising covetousness to the fearful neglect of the claims of religion and benevolence. Covetousness is the plague-spot, the brand-mark of the Church's present condition. It is an all-consuming cancer in her soul, eating up the vitals of her piety and bliss. A deadly upas, specious and fair to the sight; but extending wide its branches, and destroying every principle that comes within the range of its influence. A fatal opiate; under whose benumbing and stupifying operation she has become insensible to her leanness, and foolishly dreams of progress without devoted consistency. It has almost stifled in her the throes of soul-travail; shrink-