

Jowett, who last winter preached in Dr. Wallace's pulpit, Greyfriars', Edinburgh, has lately preached in one of the London Churches. The introduction of his sermon characterized large portions of the Bible as "myths utterly unworthy of belief." This from a clergyman of the Church of England, and the Head of an Oxford College, is somewhat astounding.

THE PROBLEM.

We have a very faithful and enterprising committee of Synod in charge of "Systematic Giving." The members of that Committee have done nobly for the last ten years in waking up Christians to the duty of supporting the Gospel with greater liberality. Many of our people, especially the young, now give freely and joyfully more than one-tenth of their income. Many individuals and congregations have adopted the system of regular contributions to the Lord's Treasury every Lord's Day. The progress made has been gradual, steady, and just rapid enough to encourage continued effort.

There are now two vital points to be dealt with, before we are in a satisfactory position as a church:—

1. All our people must be taught to give what they can. So far our giving has been extremely partial. Some congregations do ten times as much as others who are situated quite as favourably, but who have never learned the noble art of giving. Many large congregations of our Synod neglect some important objects altogether, year after year. Others give but as little as possible either for their own local purposes or for Synodical enterprises. Then, individuals in all our congregations are neglected and allowed to live and die as barren fig-trees. We cannot rest satisfied until we see all our congregations contributing to all the schemes of the church, and all our members and adherents doing what they can, or at least what they think they can.

2. We must learn to give regularly. At present our giving is intermittent. Some give once a year, some twice a year. Very few make their contributions to the

Treasurer every quarter. In our opinion we will not reach a satisfactory condition until we get contributions from all our congregations once a quarter. A steady, regular stream must flow into the Treasury—a stream which will justify a regular outflow of expenditure. Monthly contributions, as with the Free Church of Scotland, would be still more safe and satisfactory.

We hope the Systematic Giving Committee will turn its efforts in the directions we have indicated. Indeed, something more will be required than Committee work. All our ministers and all our public-spirited membership must waken up to the necessity of working out a financial revolution, by means of which *all* shall contribute, and contribute regularly. Other churches are engaged in this work, and we cannot afford to lag behind.

NOW!

There is a great work to be done on earth for God, and *now* is the time to do it. The past is away from us forever. Not a day of all the ages, not an hour, can be called back and put to new use. It is with God, henceforth irrevocable, unchangeable. We may weep over it, but tears will not avail. We may pray, but even our prayers cannot restore an atom of the lost treasure. The future is not ours, for we can grasp it only as *now*. Now is the accepted time for doing God's work and hearing his voice. Whatever he bids us do, we are to do it *now*.

What then would our Master have us do in our several spheres and relations?

The first and most pressing duty of all duties is to give ourselves up to God—to receive the truth—to accept the Lord Jesus as our Saviour. Having given ourselves to him, we will keep nothing back from him. Reader, have you given yourself to God, so that your conscious chief end is to glorify him? If not, do so now. You cannot return to the years of childhood and begin life with Christ, as you ought to have done. The best, the wisest, the only wise thing you can do, is to begin now. Young