

tion with College Sunday, 11th October [last INDEPENDENT, by an unfortunate mistake, said "11th December"], appoint each a collector of the gifts of the members, and provide a respectable good looking book for him or her to carry and keep the records in, and let the collector call *every month*, on each subscriber. The College Treasurer asks for one fifth more, all along the line. The amount may just as easily be doubled, and if this plain and reasonable method be taken, it will be doubled. And a church, once committed to "method" in its collections, will never go back to the former no method procedure. Whatever is worth doing, is worth doing well.

Our Contributors.

STAYING POWER.



WHEN Paul was laboring in Corinth he encountered opposition of a most dangerous and discouraging character. The Lord gave him "staying power," by telling him not to be afraid, or give up, "for I have much people in this city." This assurance of work to be done was sufficient, and Paul labored on.

How much "staying power" is gained by us, when we are assured that we are in the right place to do our Lord's work? When one is satisfied that God Almighty has not allowed that most precious thing, "our life," to drift into useless effort by chance; on the contrary He has, according to His plan, "ordered it in all things aright." Then, there is no occasion for fear or doubt or thought of giving up; we shall be strong. Like General Gordon we shall be invincible; not even the difficulties of a Soudan will be able to make us desert our post, or quail before the enemy.

If we would have "staying power," we must have this conviction. Such confidence is needed by all who would achieve their life work. How sadly we fail, because we do not lay hold upon this blessed truth.

A company of people, who afterwards formed a church, were by strange providences settled in a most backward part of our country. It took hard work, and great faith, to live and work there.

Looking at this settlement with the eye of faith, one would be led to exclaim, "Surely this is divinely ordered." The field for usefulness was very large, the surrounding darkness exceeding dark. The people were not so numerous, but they had the gifts, and they had the light, quite enough to make them "a city set upon a hill," in that neighborhood. So well was everything arranged, that had these people, in the light of eternity, grasped their opportunity, there is no mission field on earth that would have proved more divinely sent, or would have been more surely miraculously blessed. But, when believers spend their strength for this world's advantage, in Christian work and life, God will do what He can to make the best of them; but the opportunity for distinguished service is gone beyond redemption, so far as they are concerned.

Why should we be so anxious in our desire to better our conditions in life? Why should we desert our post, with so little thought or care? The real matter to be decided is, Has God placed me here? and what for?

It is of infinitely more importance that we should answer that question aright, than that we should enter upon the seeming good, under opportunities of another sphere.

What is a church with its associated membership for, if it is not called and settled by God? The body of believers are not their own, any more than one believer is his own. "Ye are not your own; ye are bought with a price." That being the case, neither has a right to take God's redeemed life, and use it for selfish purposes. One is called to be a grocer, another is a mechanic, another a doctor, or a minister. These, with their fellow-believers, constitute a church of Christ. A church that is adapted to meet the needs of that place. An ultra independency, or individualism, that permits any member of such a community, who possesses acknowledged fitness for associated work, to remove, without a vigorous effort to retain him, cuts the nerve of co-operative and successful work in that field.

We have often wondered at the heartlessness of some people, in changing their place of business or residence. There appeared to be no idea of a duty owed to the town or village in which they had lived so long. When they had all the money