

work of the Lord.

But what should the Christian dedicate to God? A simple and comprehensible answer is, *himself*. A more expressive reply is contained in the forcible language of Doddridge; "I consecrate to Thee all that I am, and all that I have; the faculties of my mind, the members of my body, my worldly possessions, my time, and my influence over others, to be all used entirely for Thy glory." The Lord's ransomed ones may profitably meditate on all that is here included, every morning as well as on the first of every year. They cannot feel it embraces too much. They will not say it is undeserved, and unjustly claimed by the Great Redeemer.

The faculties of the human mind, noble and Divine-like as they are, cannot find better scope for their exercise than in entire consecration to the glory of God. Whatever is contrary to this should be resolutely excluded from the thoughts of the mind and the emotions of the heart.

Nor should the body with its vigor and capabilities, be employed in a lower range of action. Here is a wide field for honorable toil, as well as for the refinements of the Arts.

Worldly possessions are the Lord's property, conscientiously used or expended for Him, as well as in word dedicated to His service.

How few appear to have a right sense of time as a precious gift of God to man! Every succeeding year should witness it more fully redeemed from idleness, trifling, and God-dishonoring recreations and employments. Will every reader of the *PRESBYTERIAN* devotedly and prayerfully employ his or her influence over others to Christ during the year just begun?

The influence of speech, so powerful, the influence of example, so controlling, the influence of prayer, so effective,—why should all this do ought but glorify God in the highest possible degree? If man is feeble, if he can do little, if he can give little, if he can exert but little influence; yet let him covet the Saviour's commendation: "She hath done what

she could."

Motives to such practical consecration are numerous and powerful. They press on the Christian from every quarter. His past history impels him in this direction. His future prospects attract him to "go forward." But especially should he endeavor to realize the force of the Apostle's words: "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price." Redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb, let him every day and hour, in every place and at every employment, live only for Christ. Consecrated by the anointing of the Holy Ghost, let him continually remember this grand origin of his personal dedication, and neither alienate himself from God's service, nor be weary in well-doing.

How powerfully would such consecration tell on the operations of the church, her teaching, her giving, her life! What interest would then be taken in missions to the heathen! What cheerful help in H. Mission and College work! Let this year witness an increase of dedicated life, and undoubtedly its close will report augmented work done in the vineyard of the Lord.

R. LATRD.

Little Harbor, Jan., 1882.

CHRISTIAN GIVING.

BY REV. A. F. THOMPSON.

The statement was made in a previous article that if we would feel right, we must act right. Action and feeling act and react upon each other. We are creatures of habit. What at first requires *self-denial and effort*, if persevered in, gradually becomes natural and easy, and will soon be regarded as a privilege.

How difficult it is to get some people to attend church. They have been brought up in the habitual neglect of the Lord's sanctuary, and now it is almost impossible to secure their attendance. Others from early years have been church goers, and though they do not profess to