

the first day of the week let EVERY ONE OF you lay by him in store, *as God hath prospered him.*" This is the written rule. It is fulfilled no less by those who, unable to strike a weekly balance, lay by them in store, *year by year*, according to their gains or income. The motive which impels the Christian to generosity—the impulse which constrains him to make sacrifices for mankind—is that which is embodied in the words, "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price."

We exhort you, beloved brethren, to apply these general principles to your own character and practice. We do so the more, because they are the principles by which you will be tested and dealt with, in the Last day. How many of you make a conscience of giving? How many sit down for the purpose of measuring by the gifts which they receive "from above," the extent of their responsibility to lay out money for the poor and for the advancement of religion? Few amongst us strive against their native selfishness. Few set themselves to reach the self-denying standard of Christian piety. May it not, indeed, be feared that some of those who "name the Name of Christ" in the Sacrament of the Supper, are going down to the grave laden with the frightful guilt of "covetousness which is idolatry?" Those who "watch for your souls" feel that at least there are grounds for urging upon you self-examination in regard to this solemn matter. It cannot be safe for any man whom God blesses with competence, much less for him to whom plenty is vouchsafed, to add stock to stock, store to store, farm to farm, and at the same time to grudge to the poor the help which they need; or to refuse to sustain those Christian Ordinances by which his household are blessed; or to withhold the means of sending to neglected ones the Gospel of Love. We fear for the safety of such a man; "How dwelleth the love of God in him!"

THE adequate support of Ordinances is that especially which we, at this time, ask you to provide for. God has blessed you, for the most part, with sufficiency. Many of you enjoy abundance. In respect of ability to give, there is no church in Canada beyond you. This you will readily allow. Not less certain is it that there exists amongst the members and adherents of the Church generally, an indisposition to provide suitably for their clergy. Long

and costly is the preparation which these men undergo ere they are ordained to the Sacred office. Laborious and self-denying is the work to which they devote themselves. Yet the instances are rare in which they are sufficiently provided for. To our shame, be it said, most of them are expected to be satisfied with the barest maintenance, while very many are even pinched by poverty.

Consider these grave facts in the light of your many blessings. Take a Scriptural view of the responsibility which presses on you as citizens, as parents, as communicants, to foster, in your respective neighbourhoods, the Church and Ordinances of the Redeemer. Remember that "the Lord hath ordained that they which preach the Gospel, should live of the Gospel." The Christian privileges which you have inherited from your fathers, are worthy of being transmitted to your children and, through them, to the generations following. They ought to be dear enough to you to call forth, for their support, a large liberality, and, if need be, even great sacrifices. Consideration for the spiritual interests of yourselves and your households should have weight with you here; not to speak of the interests of the population at large. We invoke you, withhold not the needed support for maintaining in your several parishes, Gospel Ordinances. Do this adequately. Do it even generously. Do it also cheerfully. "He that soweth liberally shall reap liberally." Prove yourselves worthy descendants of those noble sires who, at the cost of not only money, but of their own blood also, laid the foundations of the Reformed Church of Scotland. Emulate the devotion of those loyal, self-denying men who, in later years, sent forth their money, their ministers, and their missionaries, that in this far-off colony, the sons of Scotland might enjoy the ordinances of Christianity in the pure and simple form in which they had been observed in the land of their fathers. For this object the shillings and pence of humble Scotchmen, and, less often, the pounds of the Great, have been contributed these many years. Even still, the Church in Canada is the recipient of Scottish bounty. But they who bestow are, for the most part, less able to give than we who receive. All honour to those in the Old Land who make willing sacrifices that there may be perpetuated in Canada the Faith and Ordinances which are mutually dear to them and us! But let us whose