

SYSTEMATIC AND PROPORTIONATE GIVING.

[Paper read at the missionary rally at Coburg Street Church, 12th March, 1895.]

I don't think we can devise a better system than that given us by the Apostle Paul—"Upon the *first day* of the week (of every week), let every one of you, (men as well as women) lay by him in store as God hath prospered him.—1 Cor. xvi. 2. Now, I think this is as good a method as we can get, namely—to lay by us, every Lord's day, a proportionate share of our weekly income. It will be noticed that we are not required to give this amount—whatever it may be, we will come to that later—weekly into the church treasury, but to put it into our *own* treasury for the Lord's work. I do not think it is expedient for us to give all of the "Lord's money" to our home church—that would be charity staying at home! But we should have "cash on hand" to help forward the grand work of spreading the Redeemer's Kingdom anywhere and everywhere.

This was the method of a good Christian lady with whom I was acquainted. Each week she laid by a share of her income in a little safe—which she called the *Lord's money*; and each Lord's day she gave part of this for the support of the home church, and the rest was on hand to be given as required for the schemes of the church at home or abroad. She was satisfied that she was doing the Lord's will, and prospered accordingly. There is just one thing more I wish to mention in this part of the subject, namely, this—that some of us cannot every first day of the week lay by a share of our income, for the simple reason that we do not get it weekly to lay by, but perhaps monthly, or quarterly, or only half yearly. However, whenever it comes, is the time to put away a certain percentage for the Lord's work. We should not wait till we get everything we want for ourselves, and then give the Lord a part of what remains—if there is anything remaining. This would be robbing God! But let us "Honor the Lord with our substance, and with the first-fruits of all our increase."—Prov. iii. 9.

In regard to proportionate giving, I think our conscience would be a very good rule to follow, provided our conscience were rightly trained. The Jews were required to give tithes of all they possessed, and if they withheld anything from the tenth part they were charged with *robbing* God. Mal. iii: 8-10. And I know of no place in God's Word where this requirement was revoked. It is true that there is not a definite rule laid down in the New Testament directing us just how much or how little to give, for it seems to me that the important question with some is not how much can I give, but *how little may I give*. I think the reason why more explicit directions are not given is this: The early churches were largely composed of Jews who had been thoroughly trained in giving a tenth, and as Christianity is superior to Judaism, and the knowledge of Christ and his salvation is above the temple worship, so the privilege of supporting the former is to that of the latter. Also, the words of Christ were fresh in their memory—

"freely ye have received, freely give." For ye know that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. (2 Cor. viii: 9.)

About two years ago I remember having heard Mr. Gates speak on this subject and among other things he said: "You ho are priding yourselves on giving one nth of your income to the Lord, you are *not giving* to the Lord at all, but only returning what is already his, and if you keep back a part of this you are robbing the Lord of his own. If you want to *give* to the Lord you must give more than a tenth." This was a new idea to me and I have not forgotten it. For a number of years I had been thinking that I had been giving to the Lord and just then found out that, hitherto, I had not given anything.

Some would tell us that if they have money it is their own, for they earned it, and they have no right to give a tenth, or in fact any of it to the Lord unless they want to. To all such I would say, read Deut. viii. 11-20. And in your memory write the words—"And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand, hath gotten me this wealth, but thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is He that giveth the power to get wealth."

Let us be faithful and just stewards, and while we give systematically and proportionately, let us not forget to give cheerfully—"For the Lord loveth a cheerful giver."

S. M. L.

A GOSPEL CONQUEST.

One of the most remarkable of all the conquests of the gospel is that of the Telugu nation in farther India. The American Baptist Foreign Missionary Society has been working amongst this people for the past fifty years, but for thirty years with scarcely any visible result. Time and again, the society talked of removing its one missionary from this post to some more promising field but Dr. Jewett refused to leave the Telugus. For them he had decided to work as long as life lasted. Seeing his determination, the society at last decided to send him reinforcements. Rev. J. E. Clough, who is now called the apostle to the Telugus, was sent to his assistance, and ten years more were spent in apparently fruitless toil. All this time the good seed was being sown, and by and by came the harvest. Slowly at first, then more rapidly, and at last in multitudes the people turned to God.

One day the missionary was surprised by a number who came to his house, piled up their idols in his yard and asked for baptism. Had they come by twos and threes it would have been surprising enough, but they came by thousands. The missionary thought he must be very careful, the people might be laboring under some excitement, they might not fully understand their duty. But they did. They continued to demand baptism at his hands until he yielded, and in one day he and his assistant baptized two thousand, two hundred and twenty two converts, almost the Pentecostal number. And in that year ten thousand converts were received. Now there are more than thirty thousand Christians, and a large number of faithful ministers who are doing noble service for God in that region. C. B. R.

There are two things in which all Hindus agree: The sanctity of the cow, and the depravity of women.

To-day the whole world is ringing with voices like the sound of many waters, calling the church to an aggressive campaign of world-wide activity, and eventually of universal conquest and peaceful occupation.—Dennis.

Bishop Taylor, of Africa, has \$6,000.00 a year salary. He lives on \$500.00 and gives \$5,500.00 a year to missions.

"The latest good news is as startling as anything that has been reported from the seat of war. The Japanese government has voluntarily given permission for six native missionaries to accompany the army as chaplains. They are to have every facility for work and are to be officially recognized by the authorities. The highest hopes of the missionaries had not reached this remarkable state of affairs. It is another proof that God rules the nations. And although kingdoms fall the kingdom of Christ shall be universal."

HALIFAX BUILDING FUND.

Previously acknowledged,	\$1,548 21
Sister Anna Anderson.. . . .	1 00
Total,	\$1,549 21
HENRY CARSON,	
Treasurer.	
March 8th, 1895, Halifax, N. S.	

Married.

COLP—HUPHMAN—At Summerville, N. S., by Elder William Murray, Reuben Colp, of Port Mouton, to Esther Huphman, of Summerville, March 2nd, 1895.

Died.

LEONARD.—Doubtless some gifted pen will write the obituary of Bro George Leonard, lately deceased, an elder of the church at Leonardville, Deer Island, N. B., who was very highly esteemed for his works' sake, and also for his noble Christian character; but I desire to say a work in testimony of what I knew of his goodness, his loving-kindness, his charity, his patience, his perseverance, and his untiring zeal in a constant endeavor to promote the cause of Christ and the well-being of humanity. His heart and his hand were ever open to relieve, as far as possible, the sorrowing, the suffering or the needy. No man with whom I was ever acquainted, so fully obeyed the word of the blessed Son of God: "Give to him that asketh of thee, and from him that would borrow of thee, turn not thou away." Because of this, he often suffered loss, and the burdens of life were, perhaps, made more heavy. He could not say No! to the apparently needy, and he was therefore often imposed upon by designing men who would rather gain a dollar in any other way than by honestly earning it. Now his earthly race is run. Honestly and faithfully he did what he could as he believed right, to bring the greatest good to the greatest number. He rests from his labors. The burdens of life are laid down forever. The effect of his works will follow. For him there is the well done. There is rest—peace—home—heaven.

To those who are left in sorrow, who sympathized with him and helped him in every good word and work, my desire is, that they may be sustained and kept in peace until the great gathering time, in the great by-and-bye, in a fairer world than this.

I can understand, in some degree, how much Bro. L. will be missed by Sister L. and those who are left without father's counsel, in the hospitable home, where, in days gone by, I have spent so many pleasant hours.

It is all right, however. We are passing over one by one. We are gathering to a home which will be more permanent—a home where all will be harmonious, peaceful, and imperishable; and, where "he who is in the midst of the throne shall feed them (who gather there) and lead them unto living fountains of water, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Blessed home! Glorious end!

O. B. E.