

pered him, he gave the more. Then God prospered him still further; and the more he prospered the more he gave,—more and more. And so it has always been. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over," is a precept and a promise of spiritual things under the present dispensation. Oh, beloved in Christ, let us carry it out! In every way, just as we act faithfully, so does He deal with us.

THIS GIVING OBLIGATORY UPON ALL.

The precept in this verse is, "On the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store." There is a temptation for the poor to look to some few in the church to do all that is required. They say, "These are rich; they can bear the burden; they can take the expense on themselves." But this precept does not refer simply to the rich in this world's goods; not even to them and to the middle class; but to the very poorest of the poor. There are none so poor, but, at some time or other, they may have a cent to give as God may prosper them. The poorest of the poor may give a cent on the Lord's day. If they do the Lord will make it up. I knew a poor cripple woman who cultivated a very little piece of ground with potatoes. She determined one day with herself she would now give a cent a week to the Lord's work, and so she did. The Lord prospered her little crop of potatoes, and next year she would give four cents per week; and the Lord prospered her more abundantly. At the end of the first year her property was about fifty dollars; at the end of the next, about seventy-five dollars. She now resolved she would give two cents a day, instead of a cent a week as at first. Thus she went on and on, and the Lord prospered her more and more, till she was able to give twelve cents a day. When she now took stock in her little way, she found she had \$150 to \$200. Still the Lord prospered her, so that she had now about \$750 of value in potatoes, pigs, etc. Then she gave thirty cents per day. That was years ago; and now I have reason to believe she is in possession of several thousand dollars.

THIS GIVING ADVANTAGEOUS.

Now, just let us act according to this principle, and it will be seen that, as to this life, we are no losers; and as to spiritual things, I cannot tell you what it will produce. There is nothing to hinder why we should not act thus. If it be found at the end of the year in which we resolved to give a tenth, that we have prospered more than we expected, let us increase the *proportion*. As to the *method* of carrying this out, it can be