

SYSTEMATIC CHARITY.

A merchant in the United States said, in answer to inquiries relative to his mode of giving—"In consecrating my life anew to God, aware of the ensnaring influence of riches, and the necessity of deciding on a plan of charity before wealth should bias my judgment, I adopted the following system. I decided to balance my accounts as I could every month, reserving such portion of profits as might appear adequate to cover possible losses; and to lay aside by entry on a benevolent account, one-tenth of the remaining profits, great or small, as a fund for benevolent expenditure,* supporting myself and family on the remaining nine-tenths. I further determined that if at any time my net profit *i.e.*, profits from which clerk-hire and store-expense had been deducted, should exceed five hundred dollars in a month, I would give twelve and a half per cent.; if over seven hundred dollars, fifteen per cent.; if over nine hundred dollars, seventeen and a half per cent.; if over thirteen hundred dollars, twenty two and a half per cent.; thus increasing the proportion of the whole as God should prosper, until at fifteen hundred dollars I should give twenty five per cent., or three hundred and seventy-five dollars a month. As capital was of the utmost importance to my success in business, I decided not to increase the foregoing scale until I had acquired a certain capital, after which I would give one quarter of all net profits, great or small; and on the acquisition of another certain amount of capital, then to give the whole of my net profits.

"It is now several years since I adopted this plan; and under it I have acquired a handsome capital, and have been prospered beyond my most sanguine expectations. Although constantly giving, I have never yet touched the bottom of my fund; I have repeatedly been surprised to find what large drafts it would bear. True, during some months I have encountered a salutary trial of faith; when this rule has led me to lay by the tenth, while the remainder proved inadequate to my support. But the tide was soon turned; and, with gratitude, I have recognized a heavenly hand more than making good all past deficiencies."—*Rev. P. B. Power, M. A.*

Dr. Cuyler compares wholesale revival work to the obtaining of fruit by shaking the tree, which leaves it on the ground bruised and battered, and conversion by private conversation to *hand-picking*, which takes the fruit carefully off and places it uninjured in the basket. He says: "The shaking process makes a great noise—it brings a temporary credit and *eclat* to the man who does the shaking—but it does not gather the 'fruits of the Spirit,' in the shape of intelligently-converted men and women into the church of Jesus Christ." It is a fact that often has been commented upon, that a considerable proportion of the "shaken" fruit does not keep very well.

(Christians' hearts are as iron; if they be once made hot with the love of God, they will more easily be joined together in love one to another.