

we confidently anticipate a fine increase. Will all our old subscribers please renew without delay, and send as many new names as possible.

Editorial and Contributed.

GIVING.

A GOOD deal has been written respecting pecuniary contributions to the missionary cause, but there is reason to believe that the Church has not yet attained to the true standard of giving. It strikes us that *one-tenth* should be regarded as the minimum amount to be contributed, hence we agree with the writer who says that the "man who does not give one-seventh of his time and one-tenth of his income to the Lord, is not only a good deal less than a Christian, but also less than a Jew." Paul tells the Christians at Corinth that on the first day of the week they are to lay by in store as God hath prospered them. If all, or even the majority, would act in this manner, the treasury of the Church would always be replenished. It is not lack of means but lack of a willing mind that hinders. The Church has money, brains, organizations, rivers of prayer and oceans of sermons, but she lacks in *power*. This power is the *sine qua non* in missionary work.

It has sometimes occurred to the writer that native Christians in heathen lands often come nearer the Bible standard of giving than some in countries long since evangelized. Raiatea, in the Southern Pacific, was regarded as the very climax of darkness and degradation. The gospel banner was unfurled, and king and people are now civilized and Christianized; and in May, 1882, a new church was dedicated, which cost \$8,760, every cent of which was paid at the dedication. Bishop Sargent, in South India, tells of a man who contributed ten rupees (\$5) to the funds of the church, and on being told that the amount was too large for him, he said, "O, sir, I am only giving back what God has given me."

Archdeacon Kirby, among the Indians in Manitoba, tells of a man who gave a silver-fox skin as his gift. This was literally giving to God the best, as that is the most valuable fur in the country, and the skin thus presented sold for \$12.50, probably about one-fourth of the poor man's winter's hunt.

It is stated that the contributions of the Japanese churches would have been equivalent here to \$20 per member. Twelve of the sixteen, though of very recent formation, received no help from the missionary treasury (American Board) last year. The pastors have led their people in the practice of self-denial, some of them receiving as salaries only a *fifth*, or even a *tenth*, of what they can have if they will enter the

Government service. The same liberality is seen in eastern and western Turkey, although famine recently possessed the south-eastern portion of Asiatic Turkey. Ought not these and like facts shame some of us, who pride ourselves a little on giving three or four per cent. of that abundant income which the Lord lends us? The Rev. C. H. Spurgeon says: "I knew a lad in Christ once who adopted the principle of giving a tenth to God. When he won a money prize for an essay on a religious subject, he felt that he could not give less than one-fifth of it. He had never after that been able to deny himself the pleasure of having a fifth to give. God has wonderfully blessed that lad, and increased his means, and his enjoyment of the luxury of luxuries—the luxury of doing good." No doubt that lad was Mr. Spurgeon himself.

Would that every Christian who may read these lines would ask himself, "How much do I owe unto the Lord?" We want more close personal scrutiny on this matter. Too many contribute from impulse. We would have the question of duty settled between each Christian and the Saviour. He gave his life for *us*, what have we given for HIM? A day of "Intercession for Missions" was observed in Glasgow. A stranger present at the meeting was so impressed with a sense of his past neglect that he sent in an anonymous contribution of \$10,000. Solemn reflection in this instance produced good results.

Christians of every name, especially in Canada, have we done our duty? Are we now doing it? Shall the future not bear a better record concerning us than the past has done? We entreat you to ponder the following paragraph, copied originally from the *Bombay Guardian*:—

"In none of the Apostolic letters written to the primitive churches are Christians directed to look and pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, neither does our Lord, in His letters addressed to the seven churches, bid them seek the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, though some of these churches were in a very critical state and in danger of having their candlestick removed out of its place. There are many solemn warnings and admonitions and entreaties in all these epistles, and the presumption is that the Spirit of God *was with the believers* to enable them to obey these instructions.

"At this moment there are probably thousands of Christians on their knees imploring the descent of the Holy Ghost, to whom the Scripture is saying, 'Arise, and do the first works; repent, put off the old man, put on the new man; pay your debts; sell your superfluities and give to the needy; speak to your neighbors of the great salvation; confess your faults to those whom you have injured in reputation or otherwise; care for your poor relations; show kindness to your servants,' in a word, take up your cross and follow Christ, and be all that you are asking the Holy Ghost to make you."

E. BARRASS.