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WHOSE DUTY IS IT?

Who are to meet the claims of God's church and charities? "*Let every one of you, upon the first day of the week, lay by him in store.*" This answer includes every professing Christian—the rich and the poor, the old and the young; it excludes none.

Wherever there is an income, upon that God's cause has a claim. This sweeping injunction is, or should be, a privilege to the rich and prosperous; and it is felt as no burden by the grateful heart of the poor.

Under the old economy, while the rich brought their costly offerings, the poor brought the dove, or the handful of flour.

Now, we are not called upon to give one-third, as every God-fearing Israelite must have done; but every heart is to be opened, and to every one there is amplest room for conscience-prompted liberality.

We cannot force liberality, but we may cultivate it. Let us turn up any number we please of our British mission periodicals, and how many contributions have we there, seldom heard of in Canada!

They speak for themselves as "thank-offerings," "first fruits," "widow's mites," "legacies," "girls' gifts," "mission boxes of departed ones." These offerings may be large, or they may be small; but there is heart in them, even gratitude following mercies.

How few legacies have been left for our Canadian poor, or church schemes by the thousands who have prospered and died rich! How few first fruits are chronicled from our young farmers, merchants, mechanics, or professional men! How few of the lambs of the flock have been taught by precept or example to have their savings bank or mission box, and thus to consecrate some of their cents with all the warmth of first love to God—how few!

These are some of the modes in which liberality may be cultivated by every one—rich and poor, old and young.

We often hear of the "nurture and admonition of the Lord." Were Christian liberality included, as it should be, in our Christian nurture, silvery streams would speedily flow from thousands of hitherto unopened fountains to God's church and to God's charities.

The use and wont idea of too many is this: the head of the house, the well-to-do in the world, should give their yearly seat rent, and of course the