

## The Christian.

ST. JOHN, N. B., . . . . . MAY, 1898

## EDITORIAL.

## THE BLESSEDNESS OF GIVING AND RECEIVING.

Although all things else are changing and passing away, the words of Christ remain the same — as true to-day as when they fell from His lips; they are the living bread of which a man may eat and never die.

In this solemn and affectionate address of the Apostle Paul to the elders of the church at Ephesus, he appeals to the example he had set before them from the very first day he had come among them. The gospel he had preached was the power of God to save every believer of it, and his deportment was such as to commend itself to every man's conscience in the sight of God. Although some of the Ephesians were rich, he had coveted no man's silver or gold or apparel. He did not even claim what was justly due him as a preacher of the gospel, but with willing hands labored for his own support and for that of his needy brethren. He had shown these elders all things which were right, and especially how to labor to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

These words are not recorded by the four evangelists, but preserved to us by this apostle as Jesus' "legacy of love." They seem to be used by Him as an important aphorism, and their preciousness will be manifest in proportion as we remember them coming from the heart of Him who gave even Himself for us.

Happiness comes from both giving and receiving, but it is more blessed to give than to receive. It is happier to have power to give than to be obliged to receive, and that labor is blessed which gives the power. There is far greater comfort in giving; there is more of grace, more of love, more of heaven, and more of the Divine image in giving than in receiving. It is sacrifice which makes the giver blest. When Jesus saw rich men casting much into the treasury of God, and a poor widow cast in two mites, He said her's was more than all of theirs. They gave of their abundance; she gave her all. There was a sacrifice in her gift which was not in theirs; therefore she was more blessed than they. How sad to think of giving to a good cause only what we can spare without feeling it. We should give our best and consider it our very best investment, for he that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord, and has His promise of the best interest.

When Lazarus desired to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table, it does not say that the crumbs were refused; but the beggar's food cost the rich man nothing, and, behold the end! Let our gifts be mingled with self-denial and sacrifice, in the love of God, and we will be the greatest gainers, for "the Lord loveth a cheerful giver."

A story is told of a needy minister, many years ago, in one of these provinces, visiting one of his wealthy members. It was soon evident that the man had no thought of aiding him or his cause; times, he thought, were altogether too hard for anything of that kind. One thing, however, he could do, and he eagerly did it—he took his minister into his fields to show him his superior crops. Next he showed him his fine horses and superior herd of cows. At last he pointed to him a huge pig, nearly ready for the knife. When all was done they returned to the house, and the minister addressed the good woman as follows: "Your husband has shown me strange things to-day—a fine potato field, an excellent piece of wheat, and such a crop of corn! And he showed me his beautiful horses, and, Oh! such a herd of superior cows, and the greatest hog I ever saw! He then left his friends (?), to take his meaning and reflect upon it, if, indeed, reflection was among their possibilities. It is well that such cases are not as common as they were, and all the time "growing beautifully less."

Still there are some who contend that a man's life does consist in the abundance of the things which he possesseth, who are determined to live unto themselves. Such a man can refuse every appeal made to him for help whether it be to feed the poor or to send the gospel to the lost. He makes no one happy, and how can he be happy himself? Streams of prosperity may seek him, and, like a sea, he may receive them all; but it is as the Dead Sea, so far below the common level that it has no outlet, but wastes itself in a poisonous evaporation, shunned by fish and fowl.

"That man may last but never lives  
Who much receives but nothing gives;  
Whom none can love, whom none can thank,  
Creation's blot, creation's blank."

Jesus has, by His own example, glorified giving, and has recommended it to His followers on every occasion. He tells a man in making a feast how he can have it all giving and wait for the receiving till the resurrection of the just. Such an example, such companionship, such work and such hope, can turn every duty into a delightful privilege. He can well afford to lay aside every weight and the sin that doth so easily beset him, and run with patience the race set before, who is looking unto Jesus, the author and the finisher of his faith.

Those who have the endearments of home and friends, and give their life to the heathen to gain them to Christ, make a noble choice. They lose their life for Christ, but will gain it unto life eternal. Like the corn or wheat which falls into the ground and dies, they will bear much fruit.

Let our life, which is so precious, be given to Christ and his service and his people, that thus losing it we may gain a new life which can never be lost.

We appreciate the many kind words the readers are writing us about the paper.

## Correspondence.

BURTON, PA.

Since leaving New Brunswick I have held meetings at Williamsport and Troy, Pa., and am now in a meeting at this place, which will close in a few days. At Williamsport there were thirty persons added to the church during the meeting. The Troy meeting resulted in twenty additions to the church; and thus far in the present meeting forty-two persons have taken their stand for the better life, with many more who are deeply interested. Our work is growing in this part of the great field, and the outlook is inspiring. The people are outgrowing denominationalism and are ready to give a candid hearing to the New Testament teaching. The time is ripe for a grand onward movement by our people. The fields are white to the harvest. M. B. RYAN.

April 21st, 1898.

## LEXINGTON (KY.) NOTES.

The second term in the College of the Bible is drawing to a close. This year has been pleasantly spent in the study of God's Word, and as I look back I find that my faith has been strengthened, and under the teachings of such pious and godly men (McGarvey, Grubbs, Dewesse, etc.) I have been enlightened in the way that I should walk.

Lexington is a beautiful city, and the College of the Bible stands as a beacon on the hill, shedding the light of the gospel all over the world. Men who have left these sacred walls, filled with the fire of enthusiasm, have gone preaching the glad tidings of salvation to the dark corners of the earth, some in Japan, others in China, and the islands of the sea; but still there is room for more.

Young men who are considering the advisability of attending college will do well to think of Kentucky University. This grand, historic institution has for many years been sending out some of our very best men, fitted for their life's work. No grander calling can be followed than the ministry of Jesus Christ. The fields are ripe unto the harvest, but the laborers are few. Young men will be wise in preparing to enter in to reap.

Lexington is pleasantly situated, has a good climate, and in the college there is a splendid moral atmosphere. The fellowship of Christian boys will be helpful in moulding lives into the Divine model—Christ Jesus. The tuition in the College of the Bible is but \$20 a year of nine months, board can be had for \$1.50 a week, and rooms for \$1 a month; so it is probably the cheapest and best school in the United States. Come, by all means, but first write to President J. W. McGarvey for a catalogue. O. HOWARD BUCHANAN.

Read Romans XIII. 8. Then read the date on the address label on your paper. If they do not harmonize, let us hear from you. Fifty cents in many cases will effect a reconciliation. In some cases more will be needed.