

you. It is a blessed thought amid all the sorrows of this world, that I may and can help some one. We read in Bible times of angels being sent by God to this one, and that one, carrying with them treasures of blessing. Men are and should be God's angels to-day. Do you envy those ministrants of the past, who carried God's gifts to needy men? God would honor you in the same way: if you are willing to become His angels? Do you imagine these angels as happy creatures? We imagine them as such. First, because they felt happy that were so honored, and second, when they saw how much happiness these gifts produced, which they had carried, the joy they had unconsciously brought became theirs in a great measure. The needs of humanity are as great as ever, and the cries which go up to the Father are as numerous as ever, and we place ourselves at His disposal to carry His gifts. We may have even now in our hearts and homes the joy of the angels.

In the third place, we should be examples of doing and giving charity now. He that gives quickly, says the proverb, gives twice. We are all familiar with the one who lives in a shell of selfishness throughout his life, and when he dies leaves a thing which is called a will, asking certain individuals, when he is dead and gone, to dispense his charities. When he could have done good, he let opportunity after opportunity slip, and then when he cannot do what he should have done, he asks others to do what he should have done himself. Death-bed charities are like death-bed repentances, very dubious, and very unsatisfactory. To make death do what life with all its knowledge of want would not do, is an anomaly. For a man to close his eyes, and to shut his ears to sighs and cries of distress, and to allow those sufferers whom he has seen to go down without human help is a crime in the sight of God. Very little praise is due the man, who makes provision for a want he has not seen, when he has neglected again and again to supply a want he has seen. Colton speaks to the point when he says, "Posthumous charities are the very essence of selfish-

ness, when bequeathed by those who, when alive, would part with nothing." When a man is forced to do these things either to help his soul at a judgment seat, or to silence an accusing conscience, or to assuage the demands of outraged humanity, such can never be put into the same scale of approval with what a man willingly and freely does for the sake of his brethren. The world is grown sick of these charities, for it has more and more realized their hollowness and insincerity. Pope, when he said, "I would enjoy the pleasure of what I give, by giving it when alive, and seeing another enjoy it," gave a rule of guidance worthy of being followed by all. It is one of the real pleasures of life to see another enjoying what we can do for him. Now, while our Order makes much of the dead, yet it never loses sight of the living. We have no sympathy with that kind of charity that expends itself in magnificent coffins, while the dead one when living was shamefully neglected. That is right. Now is the day, and now is the hour for doing good. Never put off till to-morrow what should be done to-day. Our golden-chance for doing good is to-day; for now is the accepted time. Life is all too short for us to lose any of its chances or blessed opportunities. Inspire others by the nobility of your own conduct, to have a part in lessening life's woes, pains and sorrows. Be examples more and more of that charity which stands as if ever ready to do. It was for a present need, to be a present help, that Pythias placed his life at the disposal of his friend. At any other time, the help would have been of no avail. So let us follow his example, and while you seek now to bear the burdens of your fellow brethren, keep, ay, keep in mind Him who went about continually doing good. Then charity will be reincarnated in you, and for you many a prayer of gratitude will ascend to the Throne of Love, and of you both men and angels will rapturously say, Well done, you have done what you could, enter into the respect, esteem and honor of the faithful and the true. Now, brethren, charity is a fine thing to think about, write about, and speak about, but it looks a thousand

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