

one expect great blessing from a niggardly contribution to the Church. And in the next verse this same lavish giver says that every man should do in that direction what he purposeth in his heart. It is not what he purposeth in his head. The head is the place of mathematical calculation, and some men, like Judas, are great calculators. He was an expert in the multiplication table and figured out the cost of Mary's alabaster box of ointment to a nicety, while she, grateful soul, was throwing it away with the prodigality of love. But Paul says, "purposeth in his heart." The heart is the seat of the affections. We would be sceptical about the love of a prosperous man for his wife if he hunted the bargain counter at a fire sale for a piece of damaged stuff to give her as a present. And we may well have doubts as to the love of some people for the Christ of the pierced hands, if we have to judge by the size of their contributions for His cause. But we thank God every day for the people we know, some prosperous, some struggling, who give according as God hath blessed them, and give with joy. Paul puts that, too, in a splendid form. We are to give not grievingly, not with sorrow or out of necessity for sheer decency's sake—not that way, but gladly, for the Lord loveth the hilarious—that is the word, the hilarious—giver, the one that