

Even Thine angels are keeping
 Watch over me all the day ;
 Tenderly bearing me upward,
 Lest I be bruised by the way.

Thou wilt be with me in trouble,
 Sweet'ning my bitterest woe ;
 Thou wilt deliver and honor,
 And Thy salvation wilt show.

Thou art my Refuge and Fortress !
 In Thee no Ill can betide ;
 Peaceful the place of Thy presence :
 Under Thy shadow I hide.

IDA BAKER.

SYSTEMATIC AND PROPORTIONATE GIVING.*

I have been asked to open the discussion of this very practical subject in a practical way, dealing with incomes and proportions in giving, and answering some of the objections which have been brought forward at different times.

I am glad that this audience apparently includes those with very diverse incomes, but as none can possibly know the resources or limitations of another's riches or poverty, we must decide to take for ourselves what we know to be appropriate, and leave others to do the same.

It may seem rather unnecessary to speak to an assembly of women upon the subject of incomes ; quite a number of our good Baptist brethren hold that their wives do not require to handle any money, and it seems somewhat like mockery to speak of a share of their husband's property as under their control. But every woman here has some influence, though it may be small, and I wish that each one would exert that influence to have a share in the giving. Mothers, do not let the next generation grow up with the idea that if a man gives, he gives at the same time for his wife and daughters, but teach your sons, here in Canada this is necessary, that a woman's soul requires to give as well as a man's, and train him to allow a certain freedom and a just proportion of income to his women-folk.

Some mothers object to their daughters having a dress allowance, because "they will not know how to manage it," but those same mothers make no protest when those same incapable (!) daughters assume the management of a household, where there is plenty of money to waste ; or sadder still where there is a small income, when the least mistake in expenditure may bring a millstone burden of debt. "Experience teaches," then why not let them have the experience now, when you may lend your wisdom for their guidance, and train them to give freely to the Lord ?

The influence of our women as teachers in Mission

Bands, Sunday schools and day schools may reach an ever-widening circle in training the children to a nobler standard of giving. "But do you think it right to ask children or older people, who are not Christians, for money for God's work ? Is such money blessed ?" That question was once asked me by a girl who was not a Christian, and it was a real difficulty in her mind. I answer—Yes, just as right as to train a child to speak the truth, knowing that truthfulness will not save him. The question is one of the ultimate good of his character and of the world at large.

Now-a-days a number of our women and girls are bread-winners, others have an assured allowance, others earn money in many ways for various objects, a few even of our Baptist women have incomes apart from their husbands or at any rate under their own control, so I think we may safely conclude that here to-day we have incomes of great variety—and some have no incomes at all. It is to the latter I speak now—putting the very worst case first, that of a wife or daughter whose husband or father is well off and provides bountifully for the household. I have heard it reported that some men say "Get whatever is necessary and I will pay the bills," but utterly refuse to set any limit or give any income unimpeded. I have thought of the trials to a woman's self-respect when she has to ask for money for her own needs and first answer the question, "What do you want it for ?" before she can obtain the amount required, and of the pain of having to refuse to give to worthy objects out of her seeming abundance. And I have thought that in the statement of "necessities" a certain amount for the Lord's work should be included. Let us feel that we can do with inferior garments, or with fewer pleasures, or can restrict our presents to friends, but that we cannot deny ourselves the luxury of giving to the Lord, and go with that thought to the one whose wealth is quite sufficient to supply the necessities of the body, and tell him there is a deeper need unsupplied. Suppose we fail in our object. That is possible ! and no way may be open for us to give honestly. Then for the encouragement of such rich people who are without resources, and for those who seem to have no money that they can give, let me remind you that we have no record of the Lord Jesus giving aught in alms, though He owned all the silver and the gold. He emptied Himself and became as a slave, showing us how we can give, even though we may have no money at our command. The very poverty of our Lord and His apostles should be an encouragement to us, and for women there is inspiration in the thought of the many deeds of kindness and loving ministry which are mentioned with appreciation as done for Christ by women. We may all share in the commendation, "She hath done what she could," though perhaps our service may seem utterly insignificant to other eyes than those which discern all the wistful love that goes with our offering.

*An address by Miss Violet Elliot at the Convention, Oct. 16th.