

Church membership. Are we giving regularly? Are we giving as liberally as we might? The question is not whether we shall give or not give, for give we must if we would be faithful to the Christian profession.

Although laying down no hard and fast rule, we would say have some method in giving. If all connected with our Churches will ever give regularly, as God hath prospered them, there would be no need to resort to *extraordinary* ways and means of raising money. May the day soon come when our Boards of Trustees and Management shall be able to meet all expenses by direct contributions! When money owed to the Church shall be regarded as a debt in any other direction, and shall be paid as promptly as though incurred in the business transactions of daily life. Where there is no proper control and no regular system in giving it is impossible that a Church can do its best work. In connection with this subject we call the attention of our readers to a communication in another column.

Working and Giving.

"Lord what wilt thou have me to do?" asked the Apostle Paul at the time of his conversion, and during the remainder of his life he did with all his might whatever work he found to do, suffering often persecution, imprisonment, shipwreck and perils of all sorts for Christ's sake. When Moses made known to the Israelites the Lord's will concerning their contributions for the erection of the Ta-

bernacle, the willing hearted ones brought their offerings, proving that they were doers of the Word and not hearers only. God loveth a cheerful giver, and is best pleased with those services that are given willingly and not grudgingly. Not all the people brought gold and silver and brass and purple and fine linen, but those who did not found other work to do, and whether work is done with the purse or with the hands, so long as it is done from a right motive, it is acceptable to God. He never asks of us what we have not to give, but, "If there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath and not according to that he hath not," and because some cannot do as much as others in the Lord's cause is no reason why they should not to the best of their ability make use of the lesser talents with which they have been entrusted.

The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the silver and the gold are His, and He giveth His people all things richly to enjoy; but His gifts are not given in equal proportion to all. To some He gives the five talents, to some the two, and to others the one, but to all He says, "occupy till I come." Even the "willing mind," without which the costliest gifts are valueless in God's eye, but with which the smallest offering is well pleasing to Him, is one of His gifts, and our daily prayer should be that He would make our hearts willing to cheerfully work and give in whatever way we can to promote His cause in the earth. If from the abundant storehouse of His wealth He has showered riches upon us, it is not that we may spend it in selfish gratification of the flesh, or in hoarding up merely, but to relieve the needy, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, raise the fallen, carry or send the Gospel to those darkened lands where Christ's light has not