

SABBATH-DAY COLLECTIONS.

There is no day in the week on which money may be more fittingly paid into the Lord's Treasury than on the Lord's day. At other times we may be too busy to listen with due patience to the claims of the objects for which our aid is solicited.—Worldly cares and anxieties may be pressing heavily upon us, and exacting all the time and money at our command. We may not even be able, or feel disposed, to read the information and explanations that may be within our reach. Thus while we give we may do so grudgingly, sparingly, or, at best, not very sure but we are giving too much.

The time of those who collect money for religious purposes is as precious as that of the persons who give. This is often forgotten. There are persons who not only give with more liberality but give weary days that they can ill spare to the work of collecting. Now this labour should all be saved to the church and its members.—Every man, woman and child should practice the sentiment so beautifully expressed in the Psalm:—

"Give ye the glory to the Lord
That to his name is due:
Come ye into his courts and bring
An offering with you."

On the Sabbath we have leisure to learn our duty and to do it without troubling others. We shut out the world from view, and leaving all its cares behind us, address ourselves simply to the discharge of our religious duties. We know how God "hath prospered us" during the week, and act accordingly. We pray, and praise, and pay! Pay! Alas, what can we render to the Lord for all his benefits? Can we at best pay back to Him anything but what He has given us? Can we repay the love that led Christ to lay down his life for us? We cannot: but we can at least express our gratitude by our words and actions.—We can obey the Apostolic injunction: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver." "On the first day of the week—let every one give as the Lord hath prospered him." Such is the command and in

obeying it there is great reward. "God is able to make all grace abound toward you that ye always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

It is right to give money towards a good cause at any time, but no time can be more appropriate than when our hearts are overflowing with love and gratitude as we recall and commemorate the death and the glorious resurrection of our Redeemer. The heart is warmer, the hand more liberal than on ordinary week days, and we win the reward promised to those who give cheerfully.

The habit of putting the smallest coin in the realm into the collection boxes is now properly regarded as mean and disgraceful. It is, we are happy to say, generally abandoned by well instructed Christians. Yet the quantity of copper to be found in the Lord's House on the Sabbath is astonishing, and can only be accounted for on the supposition that hearers generally believe that the Lord delights in copper more than any other metal! Surely this delusion should be dispelled. The orphan and the poor widow may give coppers, but it is solemn mockery for the comfortable farmer and tradesman to pay in the same coin. The pennies of the poor should be matched by the pounds of the rich. Cents and half-cents should be carefully left at home on the Sabbath, and the pocket should be replenished with silver or gold or precious paper.

If all were willing to give on the Sabbath according to their ability there would be enough in the Lord's Treasury for all the work of the church in the Home and the Foreign Fields, and there would be no need of special collections and efforts.—But alas, who shall live to see the day when the Apostolic precept is reduced to practice!

THE CANADA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

No branch of the Christian Church in any country seems to be working more peacefully, energetically and successfully than the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Her field is varied and extensive—the cradle of future empire. From Bay Chaleur to