

gave more than could have been expected in their circumstances, or on all ordinary principles of computation. Would that it could be said of all Christians that they have given to their power. Perhaps, however, their contributions were actually small. Their contributions might have been much less than those of the rich church of Corinth. But God, who knows all our circumstances, and the motives from which our actions proceed, regards the contributions of self-denying poverty as actually greater than the profuse offerings of those, whose contributions are not such as to deprive them of a single luxury. Luke 21: 1-4.

3. They gave *willingly*. "To their power and beyond their power, they were *willing of themselves*." What was given was given cheerfully, not grudgingly or of necessity—not in the spirit too common, in which men say, I suppose I *must* give something—feeling it to be a burden, from which we would be glad to be relieved, if we could with decency. They needed no urging to give. They did not need to have persons sent to them to beg. The entreaty was on the other side. "Praying us with much entreaty, that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints."

We see the foundation of the work. They had first devoted themselves to the service

of God. Not as we hoped, or above our expectations, they first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. When a man has given *himself* it is easy to give his property. And perhaps this explains the reason why so many in the Christian church give so little or not at all. They have not yet given their hearts to the Saviour. Till this is done, we have no right to expect liberality. And till this is done, it is not a service acceptable in the sight of God. It proceeds from motives which he cannot approve.

Lastly. The cause; it was owing to the "grace of God bestowed upon them" (v. 1). Through this they were filled with "abundance of joy." Their hearts were enlarged, and their hands were opened. Partaking largely of the treasures of consolation in his word they loved not their worldly possessions, but gladly gave them for the cause of him who "gave himself" for them. O, that the Spirit of all grace would pour out a large measure of his influence upon the hearts of all the members of our modern churches. Then would the fountain of Christian liberality be indeed unsealed, and its gushing streams go forth to refresh the nations, and clothe the moral wilderness with verdure.

## Home Department.

At the time of the last meeting of Synod the Rev. Alexander McKenzie was appointed by the Presbytery of Pictou on a mission of three months to the island of Cape Breton. This mission he accomplished to the entire satisfaction of the Presbytery. This report we subjoin. Mr McKenzie on his return proceeded to Harvey, where he remained till December last. He has since visited other portions of the Province of New Brunswick, and is expected to return immediately to labor within the bounds of the Presbytery of Halifax.

*Baddeck, Cape Breton, July 24th, 1854.*

REV. & DEAR SIR:—

Being appointed by your Presbytery on a mission to Cape Breton, I beg leave to make the following report of my proceedings and labors. I left Pictou for the Strait of Canso, by a vessel bound for Boston, on the 4th July, and reached that place on the evening of the day following. I may state that I was in company so far with two ministers of the Free Church, and that we passed the time very agreeably together. I landed at Plaister Cove, and as your friend Mr McKenzie was not at home, I lodged in the Victoria Inn. I could