

stewards; that He has blessed them with His gifts that they may employ them in His service and for the purpose of blessing others. Let them be impressed with the fact that their Creator, Preserver, Benefactor and Redeemer is claiming and constantly claiming offerings, thank offerings, at their hands, that He Himself has given the practice of Weekly Storing and Offering a place among the sacred acts of solemn worship to be performed from Sabbath to Sabbath as regularly and conscientiously as we pray to and praise Him, and very soon the tide of Christian liberality will be manifestly on the flood, and the Lord's Treasury fall to overflowing.

GIVING IS WORSHIP.

Your Committee believe that the truth that giving to the Lord from right motives is worship, is more and more gaining a hold upon the minds of thoughtful men, and they are fully convinced that the more thoroughly this truth becomes a principle of action the larger will be our offerings and the more honouring they will be to God. As it has been well put in a late number of the *Princeton Review*, "The first, and beyond comparison, the chief feature of the plan before us is, that this doctrine shall be everywhere, from every pulpit, in every prayer meeting, and Sunday school, and in every Church periodical taught and earnestly impressed on the people, THAT GIVING TO THE LORD WITH A CHEERFUL AND DEVOUT HEART IS WORSHIP; that this is to be placed side by side with singing God's praises, offering to Him prayer, and reading, preaching, and hearing His Word, and that this act of worship in its proper time and place is just as obligatory, just as important as the others."

WEEKLY STORING.

In this connection, your Committee wish to emphasize the paramount importance of keeping the duty of Weekly Storing in the very forefront of the movement which is sweeping over the Church. They believe that in the secrecy of the closet, and in the retirement of the family circle, our people should sit down, review God's gracious dealings with them, and under the powerful influence of gratitude and love, lay aside in a private treasury, sacred to the Lord what they feel they ought to appropriate for the advancement of His cause. One who is preeminently entitled to be heard upon this subject, says, "Abundant experience teaches that unless weekly offering be sustained by storing the Lord's portion, it will be uncertain, inefficient, and of temporary duration."

SUGGESTIONS.

Quite a number of the fathers and brethren have kindly favoured the Committee

with suggestions, for which they would tender their acknowledgments. One suggests that congregational meetings should be called occasionally for the purpose of keeping the subject prominently before the minds of the people. Another impresses upon us the importance of ministers frequently preaching upon the subject. Another recommends that the subject be pressed upon congregations at meetings for Presbyterian visitations. Another expresses his conviction that a recommendation from Synod to congregations to use open plates rather than bags or boxes might be useful. Another suggests the appointment of committees by the several Presbyteries, consisting largely of laymen, for the purpose of visiting the congregations and of bringing the subject before the people. One of the fathers of our Synod says, "The importance of a regular set of books of accounts, especially of income and expenditure, I regard as very great, both as a guide to the sum given and to more enlarged views of God's goodness personally. A part of all income ought to go and at once into a separate purse sacred to religious and benevolent purposes and the benefit of this as element of personal religious training and as securing the design of all giving is far greater than generally imagined."

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Your Committee refer to these suggestions for the purpose of bringing them before the Church, so that our people may give them that consideration to which they are entitled. The only recommendations for which they ask the sanction of the Synod are the following:

1. That the Synod recommend all the ministers to bring the facts contained in this report before their congregations as soon as possible in that way which may appear to them likely to be most effective.

That the recommendations of last Synod be issued again this year,

First: "That the Synod recommend the Presbyteries, Sessions, and Boards of Managers, under their jurisdiction to use all diligence to promote the extension of Systematic Giving, more especially of Weekly Storing on the part of all and of Weekly Offering where practicable."

Secondly: "That the Committee be instructed to watch over the progress of the movement during the ensuing year as hitherto, to endeavour to collect reliable information, and lay the same before the Synod at its next meeting."

E. A. McCURDY,
Secy. Committee S. B.

The Report, was highly approved, and the recommendations of last year were renewed.