

watchful, loyal, zealous spirit which Jesus showed. 'To have the mind of Christ is to be always ready for opportunity. Perhaps there is nothing else by which spiritual progress is rendered more evident than the consciousness that we are learning steadily to perceive and make wise and skillful use of our opportunities, and have to look back from week to week upon fewer which must be accounted lost.

GIVING BY SYSTEM.

If I were as rich as those mill owners, I never could allow men with families to wear their lives away working on such small pay, said a woman of comfortable circumstances, and yet, that very day she was heard telling her washer-woman that eighty-five cents was more than the other woman had charged for the work, in a tone that made the poor hard-working woman meekly reply:

"Pay me just what you paid her. I need the job very much," and I grieve to say she received but seventy-five cents for labor in which no one engages except from sore necessity.

"If I had money I would not see our pastor suffer any anxiety about the small salary he is expected to have," said a man, and yet if he had given one-tenth of his income each year to the Lord who had prospered him the deficiency would have been made up at once.

"When I have a better salary I mean to hire a pew in church, and give regularly to sustain the educational work of the missionary societies. I am interested in that," said a young teacher, but when her salary was raised there were many demands upon the extra income, and her donations were again postponed.

"If I were rich—when I am rich," these are the ideas behind which we screen our present selfishness, and call it generosity, "generosity without the means to make it evident." It is a comfortable delusion, but a delusion, nevertheless. Begin now to show what you are going to do, or what you would do with riches of soul or character or income. The way in which you spend your little indicates how you would spend more. Give systematically. It has been proved that systematic giving will bring rich, earthly blessings as well as the higher ones. If you have no money give systematically of yourself. If you have no time for church work, give the more systematically of God's joy and sunshine through your very presence as you go about your daily work, and with each giving your ability to give will increase, and blessings will be multiplied to you.

Every one can give. Money is not the only thing needed. Time is not necessary. The world is crying out for comfort in its hidden everyday life, for encouragement, for uplifting influences, for beauty, for sympathy. Can you not give some one of these? "Freely ye have received, freely give," of whatever you have in store and whether it be time, skill, prayer, tact, talent, courage or money give systematically and now.

THE JOINT REVISION OF THE PSALMS.

The joint committee appointed by various ecclesiastical bodies to unite in an effort to secure a metrical version of the inspired Psalms, which shall be worthy a place in the hymnology of every Church, held its second meeting in the Assembly Room of the Presbyterian Board of Publication, Philadelphia, Pa., on the 8th of March. The following members of the committee were present: Rev. E. R. Craven, D. D., and George Junkin, Esq., of the Presbyterian Church of the United States; Revs. W. J. Dey and Robert Murray, of the Canada Presbyterian Church; Revs. W. J. Coleman, David McAlister, D. D., T. P. Stevenson, D. D., and Walter T. Miller, of the Reformed Presbyterian Church; Revs. David Steele, D. D., Thomas Watters, Wm. J. Smiley and Dr. McKinney, of the General Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and Rev. W. J. Robinson, of the United Presbyterian Church. Of the other bodies which had been invited to co operate in the work, the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Associate Presbyterian Church South appointed committees of co-operation, but for various reasons no representative from these bodies was present at the meeting. As the Reformed (Dutch) Church, for some reason, failed to receive the invitation which was sent to it, the secretary was instructed to renew the invitation. After a full interchange of views on the part of those present, the following principles were adopted, as presenting a basis of procedure in the prosecution of the work:

1. The version which shall be finally accepted must aim to express correctly the original text. That is, it must present the exact thought of the original, in its exact order.

2. The proposed Psalter shall be limited, as a rule, to two versions of any Psalm.

3. The so-called Rouse's version shall be used as the basis of the proposed revision.

It was also agreed that the general method used by the committee of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, in the preparation of the Presbyterian Hymnal, shall be adopted as a working plan of procedure, which is outlined substantially as follows: In deciding whether Rouse or some other version of any Psalm, or part of a Psalm, shall be accepted, the members of the committee shall use as terms of notation the first four letters of the alphabet, as follows:

A. Rouse without emendation.

B. Rouse with emendations, the same being indicated.

C. Rouse amended, and a second version desired, which should be indicated.

D. A substitute or substitutes for Rouse which should be indicated.

Each member of the Committee is expected to enter upon the work and bear his part. The special direction of the work, however, was committed to a sub-committee consisting of one member from each of the bodies represented. The members of this committee named thus far are, Dr. E. R. Craven, Dr. David McAllister, Rev. W. J. Dey, Dr. D. Steele, and Rev. W. J. Robinson. The sub-committee was empowered to add other names. This committee was also authorized to purchase such copies of the metrical Psalms now in print as may be needful.

The committee then adjourned, to meet at the call of the sub-committee.

THE VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA.

The volunteers of America celebrated their first anniversary in March. The progress which they have made is remarkable. They begin their second year with 160 Posts and 500 commissioned officers and with 3,000 members of their auxiliary or "Defenders League." Every month half a million of people hear an earnest gospel through their out-door and in-door meetings.

Beside the regular gospel and relief work done at the posts, Mrs. Ballington Booth is conducting a wonderful mission in the State Prisons in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey and California. More than 1,200 of the prisoners have been converted and have joined the Volunteers Prisoner's League. She is also establishing homes to which they can go when released and where they can receive aid in obtaining work.

In the Northwestern territory under the command of Brig. Gen'l. Fielding, there are now 60 posts and 170 commissioned officers. About 800 conversions were reported from these posts during March.

During the past winter the Chicago Posts fed 14,398 hungry people, lodged 6,206, gave away 5,186 garments, 30 tons of coal and 1055 loaves of bread. They also distributed hundreds of dollars worth of groceries, shoes and medicine to the worthy poor.

Besides this last summer, they gave a free picnic to 15,000 poor children and afterward a thanksgiving dinner to 1,200 news-boys and a Christmas dinner to 7,000 hungry men.

In this work, so much like the Master's, they desire the help of all good people. Any contributions can be addressed to Commander Ballington Booth, 34 Union Square, New York, or to Brigadier General Fielding, Atwood Bldg., Chicago.

The South-End House, Boston, recently started a circulating art gallery of 100 simply framed photographs of famous pictures which time has tested. Each picture remains for a month in one household and then is replaced by another. They are intrusted to the members of a mothers' club, brought together by persistently pinning invitations on the little ones of the kindergarten belonging to the settlement. The circulating art gallery originated in Hull House, Chicago. It is vindicated by the fact that one poor mother tearfully begged not to have the picture (a madonna) exchanged, "because we all love it so."