



DISTRIBUTING THE PRIZES.

No thoughtful person can help feeling that our heritage is glorious in its traditions and attractive in the highest degree from the future possibilities which it offers. We have laid down for us in the Prayer Book old paths which it is good to follow because they have conducted the pious and holy of many generations to their eternal home. It remains for us to employ such new methods as the circumstances of the time require, and to leave no stone unturned to advance the interests of Christ's Church, and to set forward the salvation of all men.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS.

THE love that children have for receiving gifts is a well known trait in their character. And there is something also in it that is truly delightful. Unless spoiled they are easily satisfied, and a very small thing will give them pleasure. Who can help, for instance being greatly pleased at seeing children receiving presents from a Christmas tree? With what bright faces they gaze upon the tree shining with varied toys and articles, fairly glittering amid the burning tapers!

Missionaries find children the same in all parts of the world. The school mistress in Africa finds the little natives there as eager to receive their presents as the children in our own civilized homes, and those who make up missionary boxes should

always bear this in mind. A missionary box should not be of the utilitarian character only. The ornate and the beautiful should be remembered, and above all the children should not be forgotten. How many discarded toys there are in our abundant homes that would be rich prizes for poor or foreign children. It is the custom in some wealthy city churches to urge the children to bring such toys together and make an offering of them for the benefit of the poor little young folk, who have no means of procuring such things for themselves. A goodly education is this surely for our future men and women in Christian charity.

When a mission box is being unpacked there is eager curiosity first to see and then to handle the contents; and when the appropriation comes and little ones march proudly off, the satisfied possessors of some prize, perhaps not very valuable but still a prize, there is no mistaking the general good feeling and happiness that pervades all.

The cold of winter which begins in earnest in the month of December, the joyous merriment which comes towards its close, call alike on all to be good to their fellow creatures, to help those that need help, "to rejoice with those that rejoice and to weep with those that weep," and whether we think of those that are afar in distant lands, or of those that are nearer home, or (which is better still), of both, there should be the desire to please and to make happy, for this is the will of God concerning us all in Christ Jesus.

CHRISTMAS CHARITY.

THERE is no time of the year when the hard of charity should be more generously extended than at Christmas tide. Poverty and misfortune are never so hard to bear as when, during the holiday season, so much good cheer abounds, and the shops and stores of our great cities set forth an appetizing array of food and goods that are out of the reach of the poor man's purse. Whoever would be truly happy on the year's festival must not forget those to whom Christmas fails to bring that happiness which we ourselves enjoy. We are too apt to conclude that there is too much poverty in our cities to admit of our small seeds bearing any fruit, forgetting that, as little drops of rain brighten the meadow, so the smallest act of charity on our part may brighten some home. If each of us who is comfortably surrounded would, on Christmas day, single out some poor worthy family and bestow upon them whatever is within our incomes to make the day for them brighter, and seem more like the festival it celebrates, what a joyful day Christmas would be! Our desires to see our own children happy should extend as well to the children of those whose circumstances are less fortunate than ours. Those near and dear to us claim our first thought, but let us also go farther than our own thresholds. We cannot bestow gifts upon all the world, but in every city, town and community